NEW YORK POST

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NAZI SEX MONEY SCANDAL

Getty Images

Southern Poverty Law Center big charged with secretly paying racists, including her lover

Getty Images

Heidi Beirich, former finance officer of the Southern Poverty Law Center, was charged yesterday with having the left-wing anti-hate group secretly pay money to neo-Nazis — including $1.2 million to an informant in a white supremacist group who was also her lover.

PAGES 4-5

Oceanview compound in Hither Hills | 0.68-acre with ocean views | 4BR main house | 2BR guest house | Heated gunite pool & spa | Pool house | Rec building | $10.95M | Web# 929913
DEIRDRE M. JOWERS : 631.943.1629

WESTHAMPTON

Westhampton | 122′ Ocean Frontage | 4BR 3.5BA | 2,840 SF | 2-Car Garage | 0.93-acre Oceanside Pool | $5.899M | 559DuneRoad.com
ASHLEY J. FARRELL : 631.680.8001
ALEXANDRA 'LEXIE' SCHRAGE : 631.466.5845

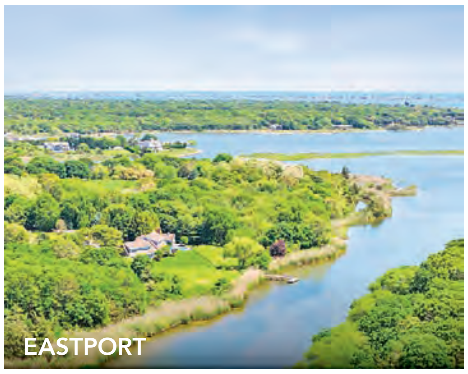
Lake views | 4,300 SF | 5BR | 6BA | Gourmet kitchen | Fireplaces | Elevator | Finished lower level | Heated 2-car garage | .62-acre | Large deck & covered patio | $5.5M | Web# 924820
GABRIELLE J. PORTELLA : 917.327.7205

SOUTHAMPTON

New construction | 5,200 SF | 6BR | 6.5BA 1.48-acres | Gourmet kitchen | Finished lower level | Heated pool | Professionally landscaped | $4.295M | Web# 931809
MARGOT REUTTER : 631.484.0991

SOUTHAMPTON VILLAGE

Moments from Main Street & ocean beaches 4BR | 3 full & 3 half BA | Elevator | .52-acre 2-car garage | $3.335M | Web# 933346
MARY K. SLATTERY : 631.375.9943;
EILEEN O'NEILL : 818.970.4371



Deep water dock | Access to Moriches Bay & ocean | 2.62-acres | 4-car garage | Heated gunite pool | 4BR | 4BA | 6,000 SF | Finished lower level | $3.925M | Web# 926412
SHAUNAGH M. BYRNE : 516.729.1713

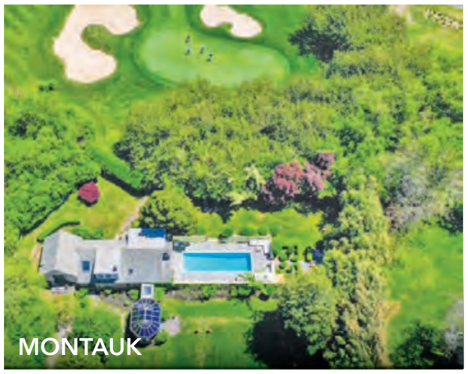
EAST HAMPTON

Modern retreat | 4BR | 3BA | 2,778 SF | Sun-filled living room with fireplace | Professional eat-in kitchen | 1.42-acres | Pool | Detached garage | $3.2M | Web# 930686
THE HAMPTONS TEAM : 516.971.5885

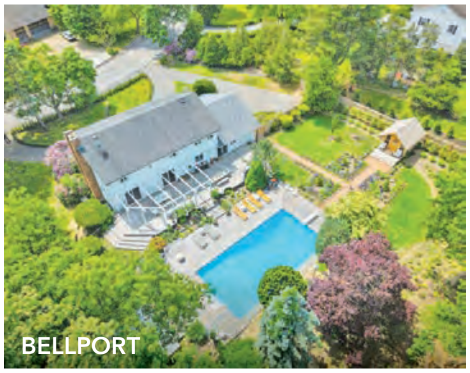
Moments to village | 1.75-acres | 4BR 3BA | Formal dining room | Great room Dining patio | Pool | Room for tennis and pool house | $2.799M | Web# 929390
CHRIS TICE : 516.996.4174

EAST HAMPTON

Hampton Waters | Renovated | 4BR | 3BA 1,800 SF | Elevated deck | Heated pool .44-acre | Close to village, ocean and bay beaches | $2.595M | Web# 931362
MARGOT REUTTER : 631.484.0991



Iconic Carl Fisher | 1.28-acres on Montauk Downs 5th green | 4BR main house | Guest house | Pool | Privacy with fully cleared lush landscape | $2.85M | Web# 931832
JOAN E. HEGNER : 631.697.5730



Extensively renovated | 3,266 SF | 4BR 3.5BA | Chef's kitchen | .92-acre | Heated pool | 2-car garage | Separate out building for flex space | $1.85M | Web# 933037
LORI FRANCESCANI : 516.578.0751

EAST HAMPTON

Clearwater Beach | Renovated | 3BR | 2BA 1,600 SF | .45-acre | Heated pool | Resident access to private bay beach, marina & water front picnic/bbq area | $1.85M | Web# 934172
JACQUELINE D. DUNPHY : 631.324.1820
GREG E. SCHMIDT : 917.848.4918

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Inez & Vinoodh

RiRi’s the lady in red

Rihanna is fashionably feather-forward in the September issue of Elle, as the 38-year-old music superstar and fashion mogul wraps herself in redbird chic from Jonathan Anderson’s cruise 2027 collection, created in partnership with Philip Treacy. Rihanna is described in the cover story as someone who “seems to live in her body unapologetically, and she does so with confidence and verve.”

COMING (HOME) OF AGE

Fewer leave nest

By ANTHONY BLAIR

The bank of mom and dad is booming.

Almost half of young adults in America either still live with their parents or receive financial help from their family, according to a new study — and experts say it will completely reshape marriage, kids and home-buying.

Some 49% of adults ages 18 to 29 live in the family home, while 47% receive help with living expenses from someone outside their household, according to the Federal Reserve’s Report on the Economic Well-Being of US Households.

The share of adults under 30 still living with mom and dad has risen by 6 percentage points since 2022, and 12 points since 2019, the year before the pandemic, the Fed’s data show.

For nearly half of young adults receiving outside help in the past 12 months, the most common reason was to cover housing costs such as rent, mortgage or utilities, or to pay for a cellphone bill or other general expenses, the report found.

Economists say this has a significant effect on society.

“There’s a lot of adult children getting financial support from their parents,” Laura Ullrich, director of economics at Indeed Hiring Lab, told Fortune magazine.

“When household formation slows, it slows new household formation, which also makes the age where people typically get married go up, the age people have their first child goes up, fertility rates go down,” added Ullrich, who has spent years studying household economic trends.

“People buy fewer houses. It impacts local schools . . . it has much more far-reaching economic implications than just thinking, oh, there’s just a bunch of adults living at home.”

Jobs and costs

Ullrich attributed the trend to multiple factors, including difficulties landing a first job and soaring housing costs.

“Given . . . housing affordability and current inflation rates, but also the difficulty young adults are having in finding a first job, it’s not surprising to see that number go up,” she said.

The shift isn’t restricted to young 20-somethings. More than a quarter (26%) of adults ages 30 to 44 also report financial help in the past year.

These trends will likely have impacts that shape the US for decades to come, Ullrich warns, as young adults, who in previous generations might have moved to major cities for their first jobs, are staying closer to home.

“When you have that larger percentage living at home, you will see some of those impacts,” Ullrich said.

Feds charge ex-SPLC finance chief in

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — A former Southern Poverty Law Center finance officer was charged Wednesday for her leading role in having the left-wing nonprofit secretly pay informants to participate in white supremacist groups.

Heidi Beirich, a resident of Palm Springs, Calif., made an initial appearance in federal court, according to her defense attorney, Michael Proctor. CNN reported that she had been arrested earlier Wednesday.

A 26-page superseding indictment naming Beirich, who was first unmasked by The Post in June, was later filed in the Middle District of Alabama.

“There is a new indictment that includes the former CFO of SPLC,” Attorney General Todd Blanche confirmed at an unrelated news conference at DOJ headquarters, adding that there had been “an arrest made,” though Beirich’s attorney said she appeared voluntarily in court.

“Dr. Beirich is innocent, and this case is without merit,” Proctor, her attorney, said in a statement. “We believe the charges against her and the SPLC are politically motivated, and Dr. Beirich has been targeted in this case because of the important work she has done to combat hate groups and extremists.”

‘Misled donors’

FBI Director Kash Patel said Beirich “was at the center of our ongoing investigation into SPLC,” which found the nonprofit “knowingly misled donors, who believed their money was being used to dismantle violent extremist organizations — when in fact, part of those donations were instead being used to pay senior leadership within those extremist groups.”

Wednesday’s superseding indictment accused Beirich of helping to funnel $1.2 million in SPLC donor money to an informant in the white supremacist group National Alliance — who was also purportedly her lover.

The June 2 indictment had named the “person who would become Director of the SPLC’s Intelligence Project” as “Employee-2.” Beirich served in that role from 2012 to 2019.

In 2014, that employee paid off an informant, identified as F-9 in the indictment, to break into the National Alliance headquarters and steal 25 boxes of documents — only to later use the materials to author an article for SPLC’s

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Sham weddings knot so fast: feds

By JOSH CHRISTENSON

WASHINGTON — The feds nabbed 11 suspects accused of operating a decade-long, multimillion-dollar marriage-fraud scheme that resulted in around 1,000 sham weddings between primarily Chinese nationals and US citizens for the purpose of getting the Asians green cards.

The “cottage industry” uncovered Wednesday charged foreign nationals up to $100,000 for each fake union, including submitting fraudulent applications to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on behalf of those seeking lawful permanent residency.

The sham-wedding ring used advertisements on social media platforms, held phony marriage ceremonies and even had both parties to the fake unions sign bizarre prenuptial agreements, prosecutors in the Southern District of New York alleged.

One of those agreements expressly stated “except in the name of husband and wife, both parties live independently and must not interfere with each other,” according to an indictment unsealed Wednesday.

Each defendant faces charges of conspiring to commit marriage fraud and immigration-document fraud as well as conspiracy to encourage the unlawful residence of aliens in the US.

Mostly in NYC

All 11 of the alleged scheme participants were expected to make their initial appearance in White Plains federal court later Wednesday.

“This was one of the largest marriage fraud prosecutions in United States history,” said Attorney General Todd Blanche at a DC press conference.

Manhattan US Attorney Jamie McDonald claimed the scheme raked in tens of millions of dollars over the past 10 years.

According to the 21-page indictment unsealed Wednesday, the green-card scheme involved recruiters of both foreign national customers and US citizens, assistants who submitted the false green-card applications, as well as attorneys, tax preparers and bogus marriage officiants.

The American members of the sham couples were paid around $30,000 to participate in the performance, prosecutors said.

Recruiters received up to $5,000 for each US citizen they brought into the scheme, with hundreds ultimately participating.

Though most of the gang’s activity took place in New York City, the ring also operated in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, China and the Pacific island nation of Vanuatu.

The defendants, all but one of whom are naturalized from China, included Amy Cheng, 72; Xiao Mei Chan, 64; Christine Lu, 52; Jing Yan Ye, 43; Xiao Yan Chen, 48; Gang Zheng, 61; Anthony Cheng, 47; Michelle Duenas, 35; Angela Duenas, 26; Sigrid Cetino, 32; and Erika Johnson, 43.

jchristenson@nypost.com

BLISS TO BUST: Two people busted in a sham wedding scheme, Anthony Cheng (above center) and Erika Johnson, pull off a bogus marriage ceremony in 2025, according to the DOJ.

DoJ

Multimillion-dollar green card scheme crashed

‘white supremacist funding’ scandal

AP Photo/Mary Altaffer

‘PLUNDER’: Former Southern Poverty Law Center finance officer Heidi Beirich (left) is accused of funneling donor funds to informants in hate groups, including her purported lover.

‘FRAUD’ PAID NAZI BEAU: DOJ

blog “Hatewatch.”

The article, “Chaos at the Compound,” is still available online. The indictment notes that it was used “to solicit more donations” for SPLC.

‘Romantic relationship’

Beirich, as an SPLC employee, was also alleged to have been “in a romantic relationship with F-9,” where the two shared joint bank accounts and a house, according to the indictment.

Over a 20-year period, F-9 received more than $1.2 million from SPLC donor funding.

Another informant — F-39 — was also paid $6,000 in donor cash “to falsely take responsibility for the burglary,” according to the federal indictment.

The Post previously identified F-39 as ex-National Alliance member Randolph Dilloway, a nearly deaf accountant who had belonged to several other hate groups before joining the neo-Nazi organization.

Beirich, who joined the SPLC in 1999, is the first employee of the Alabama-based nonprofit to have been named as a participant in the wire fraud, bank fraud and money laundering conspiracy.

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METRO EDITION
HOODWINK
Anti-hate group SPLC gave $3 million to racists they claimed to fight

“I knew it was that fat, ugly hog Heidi Beirich,” National Alliance chairman William White Williams, 78, previously told The Post from his home in east Tennessee, confirming the indictment’s descriptions.

“I think some of those cluckers wanted to get out of the movement and they went to the SPLC for help. But instead of helping them, [the SPLC] said, ‘Why don’t you stay in and get paid?’ ” he said.

The superseding indictment alleges that, between 2007 and 2023, SPLC quietly gave $4.1 million in tax-exempt donor money to violent extremist groups through a series of bank accounts and sham entities.

‘Silenced’

Some of that funding went toward costs for the wood and fuel required for cross-burnings, publishing racist pamphlets or extremist literature and other work to maintain the SPLC’s network of “field sources.”

Blanche previously characterized the SPLC’s work as “manufacturing the extremism it purports to oppose by paying sources to stoke racial hatred.”

“A free and fair society does not use the justice system to silence its political opponents,” said Proctor, the defense attorney.

“Heidi Beirich has dedicated her life to fighting hate groups and extremist movements like the KKK, neo-Nazis and other white supremacists.

“She has combatted these hateful, ugly and un-American extremists and their repeated uses of violence and intimidation in order to promote a fairer, safer and more just America. Her decades-long record of success dismantling hate groups — and the resulting threats to her life — speak volumes. For this she has been indicted,” he said.

jchristenson@nypost.com

Blake's closing in

Erik Pendzich/Shutterstock

CREEPING IN ON KAT: A new poll shows Gov. Hochul with a 10-point lead over Bruce Blakeman (left), less than her 14-point edge over Lee Zeldin at this time in 2022.

Tighter in poll vs. Hochul than Zeldin in '22

By CARL CAMPANILE

New York Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman is closer to unseating Gov. Hochul and turning the Empire State red than Lee Zeldin was in the home stretch of last election — when the GOP rival mounted a nail-bitingly close challenge, a stunning new poll reveals.

The Democratic incumbent leads Blakeman by just 10 points — 49% to 39% — among likely voters, according to a Siena College survey conducted in early August. That puts the Nassau County executive in a better position than Zeldin was at this time four years ago.

In August 2022, Hochul, just finishing her first year as governor, led the then-Long Island congressman and current US Environmental Protection Agency administrator by 14 points among likely voters — 53% to 39%.

Hochul won the election against Zeldin by a narrow six points — 53% to 47%.

"With less than three months till Election Day, Hochul holds a 10-point lead over Blakeman, 49%-39%, not crossing the magic 50% mark," said Siena pollster Steven Greenberg. "The race is already competitive."

Voters will cast their ballots for governor on Nov. 3. Notably, Hochul's lead is slimmer than those of Democratic incumbents in other statewide races.

Two-term Democratic state Attorney General Letitia James leads her Republican challenger, former federal prosecutor Saritha Komatireddy, by 18 points — 54% to 36% — among likely voters. Meanwhile, four-term Democratic state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli leads Republican Joseph Hernandez by 23 points — 55% to 32%.

Inside demographics

Hochul's campaign is buoyed by female supporters and black voters, the Siena poll shows.

She holds a 19-point lead over Blakeman among women — 56% to 37% — while likely male voters are split.

Blakeman trails Hochul by 60 points among black voters.

The incumbent also holds a significant 45-point lead in deep-blue New York City — 64% to 19% — where far-left socialist Zohran Mamdani took the mayoral election in 2025.

Blakeman, meanwhile, led his rival by 8 points in the suburbs — 49% to 41% — and the two split the upstate vote, according to the survey.

Despite the encouraging signs for the Republican challenger, the poll did reveal he has some ground to make up on key issues.

For example, roughly half of likely voters — 51% — said Hochul would do a better job of increasing affordable housing, compared to roughly a third — 35% — who believed Blakeman would.

Those respondents say she will do a slightly better job making prices more affordable for average New Yorkers — 48% to 41%.

Voters are split on who will keep New Yorkers safe, with 47% believing Hochul would do a better job with public safety and 44% believing Blakeman would.

Siena College interviewed 811 likely voters from Aug. 3-6. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

47% of state anti-DSA

Almost half of New Yorkers oppose the lefty Democratic Socialists of America movement, according to a newly released poll.

Only 30% of likely Empire State voters told Siena University they take a favorable view of the DSA, while 47% view it unfavorably and another 23% were unsure.

Most of the DSA's popularity is in New York City — with 49% of Big Apple respondents in favor of the political organization, which has surged in notoriety since the rise of Mayor Mamdani. Support for the DSA drops in Nassau and Westchester counties. *Vaughn Golden*

Mam's unloved in 'burbs

Mayor Mamdani is politically toxic in the Big Apple's surrounding suburbs, but he maintains strong support in New York City, a new poll finds.

The Siena College survey of 811 likely statewide voters revealed that 47% of respondents had a favorable view of Mamdani, while 44% had an unfavorable view.

In New York City, 69% of voters had a favorable view of their new socialist mayor, while just 24% had an unfavorable view.

But 60% of suburban voters had an unfavorable view of Mamdani, while just 34% had a favorable view.

Upstate was more split, with 41% of likely voters liking the mayor and 46% disapproving.

The numbers illustrate a key reason why state Republicans are trying to tie Gov. Hochul and other Democratic opponents to the lefty leader, especially in swing suburban districts.

"Suburbanites fear Mamdani," said John McLaughlin, a pollster for GOP gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman and President Trump.

The suburbs also aren't kind to Hochul; only 40% of voters view her favorably and 57% unfavorably.

Upstate voters registered nearly the same displeasure. But in New York City, 59% of voters gave Hochul a thumbs up, compared with 31% who gave her a thumbs down.

While Republicans use Mamdani as the boogeyman outside the Big Apple, his popularity and following can help pull out the vote for Hochul and Democrats in the five boroughs, strategists said.

Carl Campanile

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NEW JERSEY
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- Pick-4 Wed.: **1512;** Fireball: **3**
- Cash-5 Xtra Wed.: **2, 7, 10, 34, 42**; Xtra: **3**

CONNECTICUT
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- Play-4 Wed.: **6923;** Wild: **6**
- Cash-5 Wed.: **8, 12, 18, 25, 32**

POST CONTACTS

Editorial
Main Office .... (212) 930-8000
News Tips .... (212) 930-8500
Sports Desk .... (212) 930-8700

Circulation and Home Delivery
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AGUILAR-ALVAREZ
Four felony convictions.

Feds let 'loose' on LI judge

Federal immigration officials tore into a Suffolk County judge for allowing a once-deported illegal immigrant to remain free after his fourth felony drunk-driving conviction.

A rep for US Immigration and Customs Enforcement told The Post that Judge Bryan Browns blew it when he ignored prosecutors and allowed Salvadoran national Pablo Aguilar-Alvarez, 36, to walk away without bail Friday.

He's considered a flight risk as he's due back in court for sentencing in two months, when he faces up to seven years in prison.

"The county judge should focus on public safety, not making excuses for refusing to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement," a spokesperson for the federal agency said. "ICE will do everything in its power to find, detain and remove this criminal illegal alien from American communities."

Aguilar-Alvarez's string of felony drunk driving convictions date to 2017. He was deported in March 2024 after his third felony DWI conviction for a June 2022 arrest, prosecutors said, but sneaked back into the US, authorities said.

Josh Christenson and Jorge Fitz-Gibbon

150 busts, but career thief freed

SPRING TIME AGAIN

By LARRY CELONA
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

A sticky-fingered career thief who's been nabbed by cops nearly 150 times is back on the streets again despite a new batch of heists — because state law won't allow him to be held on bail.

Shaquan Seth, 40, whose rap sheet includes busts for burglary, larceny and drugs, was only out of Rikers Island for six days after a five-month stint behind bars before he was allegedly at it again — and now he's being charged with five more thefts in Queens, law-enforcement sources told The Post.

On Friday, he was cut loose again because the state's criminal justice system bans judges from setting bail on non-violent crimes like petty larceny and burglary.

"It makes no sense," one source said. "He just did six months for the same crime, and now he gets released without bail?"

Seth, whose rap sheet dates to 2009, has a history of unhinged behavior, and bizarrely sported a Super Mario Bros. T-shirt in his latest police mug shot.

He is now facing new robbery and burglary charges for five new alleged incidents between June 17 — less than a week after his stint in jail ended — and Aug. 5, with the ill-gotten loot including $400 worth of threshold candles, for which he seems to have an affinity.

A rep for the Queens District Attorney's Office said Wednesday that the charges are not bail-eligible under state law.

Seth, who is last known to have been living in The Bronx, has been particularly fond of shoplifting at a Target department store on Jackson Avenue in Queens, including snatching more than $400 worth of candles during one alleged heist, according to records and sources.

His latest alleged crime spree came after he was released from jail on June 11 after serving five months for a November robbery and burglary case, the records show.

Locked up a lot

Seth had been behind bars while those charges were pending, but pleaded guilty to felony grand larceny in May in exchange for a six-month sentence — and finished out his time after getting credit for the time he had already been behind bars, according to sources.

He's no stranger to jail cells — sources said Seth has been behind bars 67 times in the past following arrests on charges ranging from larceny, robbery, resisting arrest and assault on a police officer.

The career criminal has also been the victim of two shootings after getting into disputes with gun-toting thugs, most recently when he was shot in the hand in The Bronx in 2016.

In 2008, he was hit in the chest during a beef on the Lower East Side, the sources said.

The troubled thief was taken to Elmhurst Hospital last week for psychiatric evaluation, but was later arraigned on the new charges and released again.

Now, he's back on the streets despite his rap sheet and a slew of pending court cases.

Additional reporting by Joe Marino

Obtained by NY Post

REVOLVING DOOR: Shaquan Seth was busted for robbery six days after doing six months for the same crime – then was set free.

Kat's $7M spend on migrant kids' legal tab

Gov. Hochul announced the Empire State will be shelling out more than $7 million to cover the legal bills for more than 1,000 unaccompanied migrant children across New York.

The $7.25 million in funding will cover an estimated 1,400 migrant kids facing removal proceedings, including about 250 in detention, the governor said at a press conference in Manhattan alongside Mayor Mamdani and state Attorney General Letitia James.

The announcement came after the Trump administration let its contract with a network of about 100 providers working with migrant kids nationwide lapse in July.

"It's cruel. It's illegal. And for nearly two decades our federal government required by law that these children be protected when they cross the border," Hochul railed.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, passed during President George W. Bush's tenure, required the US government to provide legal representation for kids in deportation proceedings.

Children caught crossing into the US alone are generally entrusted to the federal government and placed in the care of an adult sponsor, typically a parent, relative or family friend by the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Trump in May tightened regulations to block illegal immigrants from serving as sponsors, after the ORR reportedly lost track of 320,000 children under President Joe Biden's administration.

"New York refuses to stand idly by while the federal government abandons immigrant children and leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and deportation," Mamdani said.

Matthew Fischetti

See how garden Zos

Stephen Yang

PROMISE NOT KEPT: Mayor Mamdani admits he won't be able to build housing on the Elizabeth Street Garden.

Mayor can't raze it

By HALEY BROWN
and MATT TROUTMAN

Mam's not happy with the garden.

Mayor Mamdani begrudgingly confirmed Wednesday he'll break his campaign promise to build housing on the Elizabeth Street Garden in lower Manhattan — blaming predecessor Eric Adams' move to save the beloved green space.

The acknowledgment came before a court hearing scheduled for next week signaling a potential settlement between the city and developers that would allow them to build 180 affordable homes elsewhere.

Mamdani said he wanted to stick by his pledge to build the homes on the site of the garden, but argued Adams first deputy mayor Randy Mastro's legal maneuvering made that "nearly impossible."

"Those actions made it nearly impossible for us to move forward," Mamdani told reporters during an unrelated press conference in The Bronx.

The garden-saving Mastro-stroke was to designate the Nolita property official city parkland — a move that could be reversed only by the state Legislature.

Mastro and Adams administration officials did so a day before 2025's mayoral election that Mamdani won.

A week before his victory, Mamdani told local news outlet Hell Gate he'd evict the garden and move forward with the plans to build much-needed affordable housing there.

After the parkland parry, Mamdani on Nov. 13 told reporters for the first time it would be "nearly impossible" to put housing in the 20,000-square-foot space.

The sculpture garden over decades became a green haven in concrete-covered lower Manhattan.

Prime location

But the property sat on city land, making it a prime location for potential affordable housing — which then-Mayor Bill de Blasio ultimately pitched in 2017.

The proposed 123-unit housing project for seniors drew neighborhood opposition — including celebrity neighbors such as Robert De Niro and Patti Smith.

Adams initially supported the project, but reversed course in June 2025.

Talks led by Mastro instead proposed to keep the garden and build 600 affordable units at three other locations.

The deal angered advocates for affordable housing, who accused Adams of putting the interests of garden-loving celebrities over the pressing need for homes in the city.

AOC FEELS

Egg freezer goes mum on fiancé

By GEORGETT ROBERTS
and CHRIS NESI

Far-left Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez haughtily proclaimed she doesn't discuss her personal life just days after posting a video showcasing every step of her ongoing fertility treatment in excruciating detail.

She declined to answer when a Post reporter asked whether she has split from longtime fiancé Riley Roberts as she exited her Queens apartment building Wednesday morning to walk her French bulldog, Deco, whom she shared with Roberts.

"I don't comment on my private life — thank you," the Democratic socialist darling said with a smile — and sans engagement ring — before clamming up and refusing to respond to any follow-ups.

Later on Wednesday, the pol's former deputy chief of staff Naureen Akhtar appeared to have flowers delivered — a beautiful bouquet of sunflowers and yellow roses addressed to "Sandy," AOC's nickname.

"Thinking of you!" the note said. "Hope these flowers bring some light to your day. Love, Naureen."

But for the past week, Ocasio-Cortez, 36, has taken to Instagram to give her 9.6 million followers a look into her private life — as she publicly documents the process to freeze her eggs.

She's shared plenty

One video showed her entire home treatment setup, with vials, syringes and other implements.

The video culminates with the congresswoman — who many believe is gearing up for a White House run in 2028 — lifting up her shirt and wiping her stomach with an alcohol wipe before injecting herself.

"Don't be weird about this," she said right before taking the shot.

The Bronx and Queens congresswoman said undergoing the treatment was "a choice that I am making to feel more in control of my life," brushing off any critiques or assumptions, including that the move was the result of breaking things off with her fiancé or an indicator she plans to defer motherhood to pursue a run for president.

She groused in another video that her government-provided insurance "does not cover one penny" of the procedure.

"It is 100% out of pocket . . . it covers nothing," she said, noting she "saved for a long time" to cover the estimated $8,000 cost.

The congresswoman said storing the frozen eggs will cost an additional $1,200 annually.

Ocasio-Cortez got engaged to Roberts, who has worked in marketing and web development, in 2022.

They were in a relationship when she became the youngest person ever elected to Congress in 2018.

"If people want to make assumptions about my decision, let them make those assumptions. I feel empowered to make this choice," she insisted.

Rumors have swirled for some time that the couple's relationship may be on the rocks.

In a 2018 GQ interview, Ocasio-Cortez made the baffling assertion that being engaged to Roberts, who is white, has made her question whether she wants to be in an interracial relationship and said she believed men only think they want to be with a successful woman.

"The moment you start being yourself, they kind of freak out," she explained.

"I think it causes a conflict within them that they didn't even anticipate. It's not even a deception. It's just, they uncover insecurities that they didn't know were there."

The marquee Democratic Socialists of America New York City member also has been spotted several times without her engagement ring, most notably when they were photographed together at a Manhattan burger joint in May.

'He never spoke'

When asked specifically if Roberts was supportive of her pursuing egg freezing, Ocasio-Cortez sidestepped the question, saying only "All of my loved ones have been very supportive."

One Democratic operative who has encountered the couple in years past had a brutal assessment of their courtship, describing Roberts as "an awkward guy as a partner for a dynamic woman" like AOC.

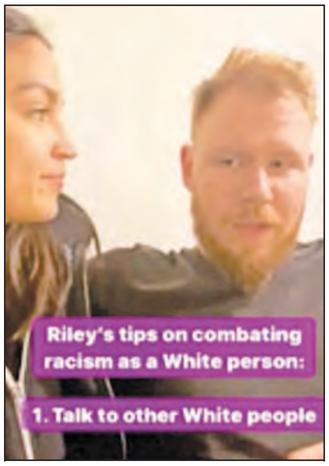
"Whenever he was around at events, he never spoke," the source said. "No one thought she actually liked him."

georgett.roberts@nypost.com

‘SINGLED’ OUT

WALK THE TALK: Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez walks her dog in Queens on Wednesday but grew terse when asked whether she split with fiancé Riley Roberts (top left).

Paul Martinka


Riley's tips on combating racism as a White person:
1. Talk to other White people

Ova-share and then demand privacy!?

KIRSTEN FLEMING

REPORTS are flying that Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez broke up with her long-term fiancé, Riley Roberts.

But the congresswoman suddenly became tight-lipped about it all when asked by The Post about the split on Wednesday. She smiled and said with a straight face, “I don’t comment on my private life, thank you.”

I don’t mean to nitpick, but aren’t the inside of one’s ovaries private? It’s quite disingenuous to say this when only days ago, the 36-year-old was on an Instagram video announcing she was freezing her eggs while pulling up her shirt, shooting a needle into her stomach and teasing her political future.

Fertility is perhaps the most intimate aspect of a woman’s life.

American royalty

Not since the Sussexes have we seen such a farce made of the word “privacy.”

Back in 2020, Meghan Markle and Prince Harry demanded it and then spilled their guts and grievances to Oprah, filmed an “intimate” Netflix docuseries about their relationship and, in the case of Harry, complained in his memoir that his room at Balmoral was smaller than his brother’s.

While their lives were for sale to the highest bidder, AOC’s personal revelations are deployed in pursuit of her lofty political ambitions. It’s transactional and performative, like the time she cried outside the immigration facility.

Will she run for president in 2028? She’s planting the seed with a slight nod to the far-left sisterhood. Egg freezing is the next pantsuit.

“This is a choice that I am making to feel more in control of my life,” she said. “I feel empowered to make this choice.”

Remember, the Squad member has been a trailblazer in the fusion of shameless politician and shameless influencer: cooking dinner in a “Tax the Rich” shirt or playing the game “Among Us” while urging viewers to “get out the vote.” Accessibility and skillful oversharing have been central to her unique brand.

Roberts, whom she met while the pair were students at Boston University, is the one who actually kept a low profile. However, their love story has provided plenty of fodder for fawning profiles in glossy fashion magazines like Vogue and GQ.

And when the socialist Cinderella arrived at the Met Gala in 2021, wearing a “Tax the Rich” dress, he was at her side.

He also appeared alongside her in the 2019 Netflix documentary “Knocking Down the House.”

Roberts was undoubtedly part of her brand building and unique origin story. Now?

The ginger dude is off limits.

Words mean very little these days.

Want it both ways

It’s like what she told ABC’s Jonathan Karl on Sunday: “Woke 1 was crazy.” She dismissed it as a whoopsie moment without explaining the shift. Words like defund, abolish and decolonize apparently meant absolutely nothing to a movement that demanded fealty and purity and punished those who didn’t bow down.

Why should “private” be any different. It’s like Mayor Mamdani calling his wife a “private person” while his office said she’d get NYPD security for personal travel overseas.

They want it both ways.

But Ocasio-Cortez isn’t a particularly serious or substantive politician. She’s an influencer with good political instincts. I’d applaud her if she’s suddenly embraced discretion. We should know less about each other in this vapid TikTok era. But Ocasio-Cortez? She’s just waiting for the perfect time to drop her new Hinge profile with the accompanying slogan: Who wants to marry a Marxist?

Take *day*care of Kat

Big campaign $$ from dodgy biz

By CHADWICK MOORE

MUSIC & MONEY: "Erhu" music prodigy Baoli Zhang — who allegedly billed Medicaid millions for little used social adult daycare centers in Queens — donated $15,000 to Gov. Hochul's campaign, records show.

Facebook; Google Maps

Gov. Hochul received $55,000 in campaign contributions from social adult daycare centers (SADCs) in fraud-plagued Flushing, Queens, records show.

Almost half of those donations can be linked to two men: local powerbroker Baoli Zhang, and Jiemin Shang — who own two of Flushing's biggest daycare businesses, both of which were devoid of patients when visited by The Post last week.

Zhang, 69, personally donated $10,000, as well as another $5,000 through his Bao Kang Adult Day Care, financial disclosures show. Zhang's various businesses have claimed at least $32 million from Medicaid since 2018, asserting it served tens of thousands of patients.

Shang runs Livingwell Day Care, which donated $5,000 to Hochul in 2022, the same year it billed $5.8 million to Medicaid. Another $5,000 came from Finest Adult Day Care, which he also runs.

Booming business

"In 2021, [SADCs] were dying due to COVID. Someone threw them a lifeline and must have said something like, 'Take care of me, I'll take care of you.' They're making more money than ever now," an industry source claimed to The Post.

Federal figures back this up. Business has exploded at Livingwell, which billed $114,000 in 2018, a number that increased to $8.05 million in 2024.

Boa Kang went from claiming $1.5 million in 2018 to $7.22 million by 2024. Monthly revenue for daycares across Flushing overall has nearly doubled compared to pre-pandemic numbers.

Only nine of the city's nearly 400 SADCs made contributions over $5,000 to Hochul's first gubernatorial campaign in 2022. Those same nine businesses accounted for billing Medicaid for an eyepopping $49 million in 2022, The Post's investigation found.

Zhang is also founder of the Asian American Adult Daycare Association, a nonprofit formed in 2023 as an industry advocacy group, while Shang is secretary-general.

Zhang, who grew up in Beijing, is a big name in the community as he is also a world-renowned musician, described as a "master" of the erhu — a two-stringed Chinese musical instrument played with a bow — performing at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and The Juilliard School, according to Chinese media.

Zhang was a child prodigy, entering a prestigious Beijing music conservatory at age 9. Before long, he was selling CDs and cassettes of his solo erhu performances to audiences across Asia and the US.

However, in recent years he has concentrated on growing his SADC businesses.

His involvement is opaque. While he listed himself as the owner and manager of Bao Kang on campaign-finance disclosure records, both local and federal Medicaid data list other individuals as the owners.

Extending to Manhattan

Zhang also owns Confucius Social Daycare Center in Manhattan's Chinatown, which billed Medicaid $15.7 million between 2018 and 2024; Silver Arch Management and AA Plus Management Inc. The latter is a "point of service" Medicaid provider that has billed taxpayers $2.65 million, according to federal data.

The SADCs in this story have not been accused of wrongdoing, nor have Zhang or Shang — who did not respond to The Post's numerous attempts for comment.

The Post's previous reporting and federal raids have shown SADCs have become epicenters for Medicaid fraud, claiming money for seniors they are not treating and in some cases giving them kickbacks of the federal money they receive.

This has happened in a number of communities, including among Coney Island's Pakistani diaspora as well as Chinatown in Manhattan and Flushing, where 77 centers are packed into the district.

The New York Department of Health told CBS News it has referred 387 SADCs for investigation since 2021, a third of which were then sent to the attorney general for legal action.

A Hochul spokesperson said: "Gov. Hochul has taken significant action to root out waste, fraud and abuse, resulting in billions of dollars in savings for taxpayers, reforms to New York's Medicaid program, and the criminal prosecution of fraudsters.

"Any facility caught breaking the law will be held accountable." The spokesperson also noted: "Political contributions have no influence on government decisions."

Zo curbs cars for Bx. bus

Mayor Mamdani plans to boot cars from swaths of The Bronx's East Tremont Avenue in a bid to speed up city buses — but local drivers on Wednesday blasted the move as "crazy."

Starting Sept. 19, cars will largely be banned from sections of the 6-mile corridor between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m., with the exception of large trucks, Access-A-Ride vans and emergency vehicles.

"Thanks to our historic bus-action plan, City Hall is bringing the Tremont Avenue busway back to life," Mamdani said Wednesday at Walter Gladwin Park.

Former Mayor Eric Adams' administration paused the busway project in 2025, saying it lacked community support, NY1 reported.

Mamdani revived it, saying the plan will make Bx36 bus service more reliable and up to 60% faster.

"New Yorkers will feel this change almost immediately," he vowed. But drivers will feel the change the most, Bronx motorists said.

"It would be a problem for everybody!" Hector, 66, said as he waited in his car to pick up his wife from work along the avenue.

The Mamdani voter said the mayor should "remember who put him here."'

David DeTurris and Haley Brown

Bust in girl's M-80 horror

A city Parks Department worker Tuesday handed a 10-year-old girl a lighter she used to ignite an M-80 that blew off her finger on Staten Island, cops and sources said.

Joshua Moe, 24, allegedly obliged when the girl asked for a lighter inside General Douglas MacArthur Park.

She then lit the illegal firework, which severed her finger, among other injuries, law-enforcement sources said.

"She wanted to light a firework," Moe told police, according to a criminal complaint. "I wanted to make them happy and have fun."

Moe was charged with endangering the welfare of a child. *Amanda Woods*

Illinois winner hits $1.04B Powerball jackpot

Billion with a capital B.

A Powerball player in Illinois won the $1.04 billion jackpot Wednesday night, the game's largest grand prize of the year.

The winning numbers were 4, 26, 66, 67, 69 and the red Powerball 9.

The ticket holder, who has yet to be identified, can choose between the $1 billion prize or a one-time $450.5 million cash payout.

The odds of hitting the Powerball jackpot are 1 in 292,201,338.

It is the eighth-largest jackpot win in Powerball's history, surpassing the $842.4 million winner on New Year's Day in 2024.

The historic holiday prize was claimed by "The Breakfast Club," who chose the $425.2 million cash sum after purchasing the winning ticket at a Food Castle grocery store in Grand Blanc, Mich.

Powerball's grand prize was last hit when two ticket holders in Texas and Florida shared the $20 million payout on May 2. *Nicholas McEntyre*

LUIGI MANGIONE
Surprise hearing due Friday.

Is a Luigi plea deal coming?

An unexpected hearing in Luigi Mangione's federal case has been scheduled for Friday morning — fueling speculation that the alleged killer of the United Healthcare CEO could cop a plea deal.

Prosecutors and Mangione's lawyers filed a joint letter requesting the hearing at 11 a.m. in Manhattan federal court, where the 28-year-old is charged with two counts of stalking resulting in death.

Two other counts, including a death-penalty-eligible count of murder through use of a firearm, were dismissed, but Mangione still faces up to life in prison if convicted in the federal case.

Mangione is simultaneously charged in state court with the alleged murder of CEO Brian Thompson, 50, gunned down in Manhattan in December 2024.

The surprise appearance comes months after Mangione's attorneys had fruitless talks with the feds about a potential plea deal, NBC News reported. *Ben Kochman*

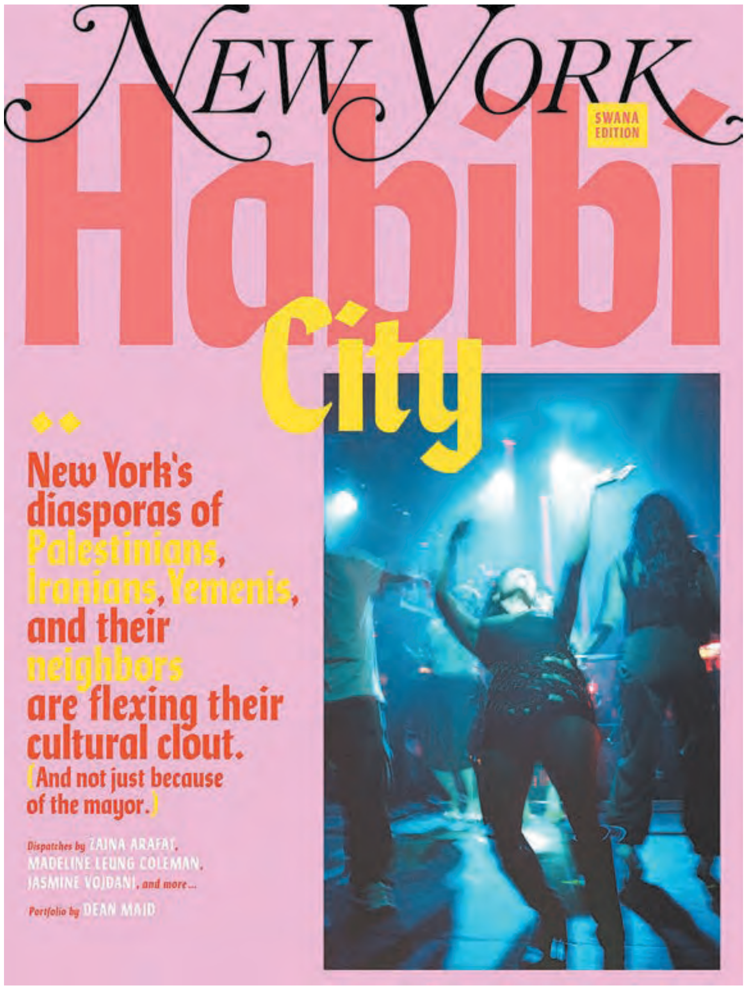
Reagan sought Hinckley meet

The Gipper was a forgiver!

Former President Ronald Reagan planned to visit his would-be assassin John Hinckley in a mental hospital, according to the gunman and the producer of a biopic on the Republican icon.

But the forgiveness meeting at St. Elizabeths Hospital was not to be because officials there nixed the idea, Hinckley told producer Mark Joseph during an interview on the "Mark Joseph Show" podcast.

Carl Campanile


NEW YORK
SWANA EDITION
Habibi City
New York's diasporas of Palestinians, Iranians, Yemenis, and their neighbors are flexing their cultural clout.
(And not just because of the mayor.)
Dispatches by ZAINA ARAFAT, MADELINE LEUNG COLEMAN, JASMINE VOJDANI, and more...
Portfolio by DEAN MAID

zainaarafat.com

HIT PIECE: Zaina Arafat's NY mag story about Arab culture in the Big Apple quickly veered into hatred of Israel and Jews.

'JEW HATING' NY MAGAZINE

Outrage at claim of 'Israel genocide'

By DOREE LEWAK

A tone-deaf New York magazine "hit piece" that purportedly celebrated Arab and Muslim culture in the Big Apple — but actually fixated on a so-called Israeli "genocide" of Palestinians and referred to the Jewish state as a mere "land mass currently called Israel" — has sparked fierce backlash, prompting outraged subscribers to cancel while insiders reveal the publication's dubious practices.

Monday's New York mag cover story titled "Habibi City" has been widely panned for its "erasure of Jews" with ties to Arab countries, with sources fuming over the outlet's marginalization of Jewish people and its vilification of Israel. The timing was seen as particularly objectionable, with hate crimes soaring under Mayor Mamdani — and more than half of reported incidents targeting Jewish New Yorkers.

The mag breathlessly ballyhooed "a blooming cultural ecosystem, led by young SWANA [Southwest Asia and North Africa] New Yorkers . . . born out of the resistance and protests in the months following October 7."

The SWANA community, "bound together by shared values," was "born out of the pain of the genocide in Gaza," according to the outlet, a once-venerable cultural icon.

Critics accused the mag of repeatedly noting Israel's response to Oct. 7 while ignoring the actual terror massacre of that day, which left 1,200 dead and 251 abducted into Hamas hell deep inside the bowels of Gaza.

"I am not going to pay for a subscription to a magazine I've long loved — and written for — that actively seeks to negate Jewish history and identity," journalist Jordana Horn told The Post.

Her cancellation over the 31-page, six-part package included a blistering message: "You're deliberately stoking the flames of anti-Jewish sentiment in this city and I'm not going to help pay for it."

Jewish groups were livid over writer Zaina Arafat's main piece sympathizing with SWANA New Yorkers who still "face xenophobia, Islamophobia and Zionism — along with the repercussions of speaking out against them," in what they branded a callous comparison of Zionism to menacing forms of hatred.

"Treating Zionism as though it belongs in a list of identity-based hatreds erases what it actually means to millions of Jews: the belief that Jews, like other peoples, have a right to national self-determination and safety," wrote AIPAC, the American-funded pro-Israel lobbying group that has become a boogeyman for the ghoulish political fringes.

Gregory P. Mango

HARD TO SWALLOW: Israeli-connected eateries in New York, like Miriam in Park Slope, have been increasingly targeted by vandals.

Jewish civil rights group End Jew Hatred took aim at the "dangerous" package that all-but-erased Jewish representation, ripping the outlet for "increasingly defining belonging around their prescribed 'position' on Gaza, effectively pushing Mizrahi Jews, whose families lived across the Middle East and North Africa for generations, out of their own regional identity."

The main piece's post-Oct. 7 reference to SWANA New Yorkers "living under the threat of annihilation" — without support to back up the claim — left End Jew Hatred furious at New York mag for "failing to mention the massacre of Jews that actually happened that day and the ongoing threats from Hamas, the regime of Iran, and its terror proxies."

"This isn't harmless 'cultural clout.' Jewish identity is not theirs to erase, and Jewish history will not be rewritten to fit a political narrative," the group added.

Pro-Israel activist Yardenne Greenspan ripped the mag for deciding "they get to define who *really* counts as Middle Eastern."

New York immigration lawyer and Jewish Syrian native Abraham Hamra also fumed.

"For a publication that prides itself on diversity and social justice, erasing more than 120,000 New York Jews whose families come from Arabized countries isn't an oversight; it's exclusion dressed up as inclusion," the pro-Israel advocate told The Post.

The Post has sought comment from New York magazine.

X 'Marx' the spot for Dem Maine-iac

WASHINGTON — Talk about waving a red flag.

Maine Democratic Senate candidate Troy Jackson once joked that he could have run for office as a full-blown communist, while attempting to rationalize to voters why he started off as a Republican.

Jackson, the replacement for disgraced oyster farmer Graham Platner, explained to a room full of Cumberland County voters in 2017 that during his early days as an elected official, he was desperate to get into power.

"It's no secret when I ran for the legislature in 2000, I was a Republican," he said at the time. "And I had no idea. All I cared about was getting into the legislature because that seemed to be the place that I could fix some of the problems that were happening in my area."

"I would've ran as anything, I would've ran as a communist," he added to laughs. "I just wanted to get to a place to do something to help the people in my area."

The former lumberjack kicked off his political career as a Republican with an unsuccessful run for the Maine state house in 2000, when he lost to Democrat Marc Michaud in a close race.

Two years later, he tried again, this time as an Independent, and beat Michaud.

Jackson has a 2.3 percentage point edge over his rival, incumbent Sen. Susan Collins. "For years, Troy Jackson has slapped on whatever label will benefit him," Republican National Committee spokesperson Kristen Cianci told The Post. Jackson's campaign did not respond.

Ryan King

Fuming lefty unhinged over

PIKER'S GLOOM & DOOM

@, HasanAbi / YouTube

By RYAN KING

WASHINGTON — Communism-adoring Twitch streamer Hasan Piker erupted in fury after Wisconsin state rep. Francesca Hong's shocking defeat in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, venting that boomers should be outlawed.

Hong, who was forced to walk back past statements in favor of abolishing police and canceling Thanksgiving Day in the run-up to Tuesday's primary, led the Democratic field by double-digits in most polling before losing to Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley by more than 3,000 votes.

Piker, who had stumped with Hong during the final weeks of her primary, blamed older Americans for her loss and struggled to talk about the blow to the far-left. "I don't want to read this because I will f--king kill myself with a gun in a video game," Piker griped after reading an article about a late-deciding voter who backed Crowley but noted they liked Hong as well. "I can't. I'm in a good mood overall," he went on. "I want to put boomers in the machine, in the contraption, and not just boomers, like anyone that says that."

Piker is notorious for espousing radical rhetoric on his streams.

For example, in 2019, Piker claimed that "America deserved 9/11," which he later begrudgingly suggested was an "inappropriate" remark. Later, he was spotted with a framed copy of a front-page newspaper story showing the twin towers in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attack.

Piker also argued that the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas attack was a "direct consequence" of Israeli actions, adding that if a terror group engaged in rape, it "doesn't change the dynamic for me. At one point, he also gushed over the "brave mujahideen" who injured Rep. Dan Crenshaw (R-Texas).

The prince of the far-left had

Dirty Jersey couple

A disgraced ex-New Jersey mayor — who was busted for driving drunk with her toddler in the car — and her husband allegedly forged supporters' signatures to get her name on the Democratic primary ballot before she lost in a landslide.

Lumberton Township Committeewoman Gina LaPlaca and Jason Carty were charged with fraudulently getting the 47-year-old politician on the ballot as part of her reelection bid in the south-central New Jersey municipality, the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office announced Tuesday.

The troublesome couple, who both "collected signatures," allegedly put people's names on a nominating petition supporting LaPlaca and signed for them without their consent ahead of the June 3 primary vote.

Multiple individuals who appeared to support the controversial politician told investigators they did not sign or authorize anyone to endorse LaPlaca's run on their behalf, officials said.

LaPlaca signed the petition swearing she "personally circulated the petition [and] that such petition was signed by each of the signers thereof in his/her own handwriting."

Carty then allegedly submitted the falsified petition to the Lumberton Township clerk.

LaPlaca is currently serving a three-year supervision sentence for the March 17, 2025, arrest where she had a blood-alcohol level nearly four times the legal limit.

She pleaded guilty in March to DUI and child endangerment over her St. Patrick's Day stunt while she was mayor.

Days before the June 3 primary, LaPlaca accused Carty of aggravated assault, claiming he "literally tried to kill me," according to the New Jersey Globe. One of the responding cops said LaPlaca was inebriated and smelled like alcohol.

Nicholas McEntyre

Hong's defeat

SIMMER DOWN: Radical streamer Hasan Piker blames boomers in a rant after socialist Francesca Hong (top) lost a Wisconsin gubernatorial primary to David Crowley (bottom).

done an interview with Hong, where she expressed support for abolishing ICE, government-run grocery stores, a one-year data-center moratorium and more.

During her media tour before the primary, Hong took heat for many of her past positions, such as calling to cancel Thanksgiving and wanting to abolish police — stances from which she had tried to downplay.

"The monkey hanged himself. I'm the monkey. And I've been staring too much of the median American voter for the last couple of months. I need a f--king break, dude," Piker reflected during his reaction to Hong's loss.

When the results began trickling in Tuesday evening and Hong was underperforming expectations, Piker quipped, "Outlaw Thanksgiving and outlaw boomers."

During the primary battle, Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and "Squad" Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) declined to throw their weight behind Hong as she faced a media firestorm.

In contrast, Abdul El-Sayed in Michigan and Peggy Flanagan in Minnesota were backed by Sanders and Ocasio-Cortez during their respective Senate primary races and defeated their centrist opponents.

However, neither El-Sayed, who defeated Rep. Haley Stevens (D-Mich.) last week, nor Flanagan, who topped Rep. Angie Craig (D-Minn.) Tuesday night, had called for the cancellation of Thanksgiving.

ryan.king@nypost.com

Wake up, pillow guy, you lost

Mike Lindell refuses to concede Minnesota GOP gubernatorial primary.

The MyPillow founder claims there were voting irregularities and is refusing to concede the election to state House Speaker Lisa Demuth.

Lindell trails Demuth by about 11 percentage points, or 45,000 votes, and the Associated Press and several other outlets called the race in favor of Demuth.

"Why would I listen to the AP?" Lindell fumed at his primary night watch party, when asked by a reporter if he planned to concede.

"There's 265,000 votes left to count." He later alleged "anomalies" in the vote totals.

Victor Nava

Socialism's persona non-starter

ISAAC SCHORR

ON the rainy morning of primary day in Madison, a volunteer for Francesca Hong's gubernatorial campaign told her that what they were doing together was about so much more than Wisconsin.

"I think we're going to make history, I really do!" he exclaimed.

As the legendary Lee Corso might put it: Not so fast, my friend.

Despite the furor over her history as a police, prison and Thanksgiving abolitionist, Gov. Tony Evers' prodigious efforts to boost her opponent and the Sanders-Cortez axis' abandonment of her, Hong had appeared to be on a glide path to the Democratic nomination.

Every single recent survey of the race had suggested she would win — and win handily — on Tuesday.

In the final days of her campaign, Hong herself appeared assured of her own inevitability.

She barely bothered to distinguish herself from her opponent, Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley, and couldn't contain a smirk as she fantasized about welcoming Evers to her team in short order.

In a particularly disturbing, hubristic middle finger to the press, her staff even turned journalists from both The Post and Fox News away at the door of her election night watch party.

Would a Hong administration have also arbitrarily denied adversarial media access to her?

I guess we'll never know; she was so drunk on the idea of wielding power that she forgot to earn it.

The wrong quality

Despite having suspended his campaign for a week-and-change just last month and being written off by the national press, Crowley shocked the world on Tuesday, dealing a painful blow to both Hong and the movement from which she hails.

Socialists with radical, holiday-hating politics have hit pay dirt in deep blue New York City.

One even prevailed in next-door Michigan last week.

But as it turns out, those victories also depended on the quality of the winning candidates.

And a quality candidate Hong was not.

Her self-sabotaging past rhetoric aside, she was utterly bereft of star power.

A gregarious campaigner with a friendly smile; she didn't let a single canvasser she met hit the road without a hug, thank you and selfie.

But she lacked the dynamism of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, the conviction of Sen. Bernie Sanders and the easy, polished charisma of Zohran Mamdani.

Her stump speeches weren't stirring, her energy wasn't infectious and her occasional curses — an apparent substitute for the vigor she lacked — landed flat.

Hong spoke in the manner you might expect a robot playing a therapist would, weaving platitudes and non sequiturs together in whispers that some airheaded recent grad told her exuded thoughtfulness but actually betrayed her as a hollow space cadet.

Her supporters reliably conveyed both some limited amount of affection for the candidate personally and unbridled enthusiasm for her agenda.

They were enamored by her never-before-conceived "idea of taxing the rich," and continued commitment to putting ICE on ice.

They viewed her heavy-handed demand for a data center moratorium as an imperative. (One supporter from Sheboygan fretted they would otherwise be used by immortality-hungry billionaires to "upload their brains to a computer.")

And her promise of delivering what she called "permanent affordability" landed well after a half-decade of runaway inflation.

Quiet part out loud

Her problem, though, was that her campaign spoke all of the quiet parts about her worldview out loud.

Hong scored points with progressives over her vacuous hostility to law enforcement.

But she had already demonstrated what that looked like in practice by voting against legislation targeting sexual predators in the state Assembly.

Moreover, the iconoclasm and rage central to her political identity were reminders of the 2020 riots that wrought untold death and destruction, and particularly in minority-majority communities.

Her events were littered with (mostly white) volunteers wearing T-shirts opposing school voucher programs.

But black families from Milwaukee were none too pleased that Hong was coming for their children's education while crowing about equity.

And while she professed to be laser-focused on the ongoing affordability crisis, those voters without medium-term memory loss might have recalled that it was profligate government spending of the kind she was championing that had spawned it.

In the end, working class voters grounded in reality rather than post-modern theory turned out in droves to save the Democrats' flighty, overeducated class from themselves.

Because while Ocasio-Cortez and Mamdani have proven adept makeup artists, they've still been applying lipstick to a pig that Hong lacked the talent to disguise.

BAD *NUDES* ON UWS

Women's shelter shocks neighbors

By HALEY BROWN

A $500 million Upper West Side women's shelter that was supposed to come with an on-site health clinic has instead brought drug use, public nudity and daily mayhem to a block with a popular playground, furious neighbors said.

The 200-bed Project Renewal shelter at 537 W. 59th St. opened in May to house women grappling with addiction and serious mental illness.

But locals say the facility opened without the promised clinic — leaving residents without needed care and families scared to use Gertrude Ederle Playground next door.

"It's a huge problem. It's right next to a playground," neighbor Heather, who declined to give her last name, told The Post. "There are people shooting up and vomiting in the playground."

A teacher who asked not to be named said her school now takes the students to a playground farther away to avoid the chaos.

"The reason why we haven't been coming here as often is because of the women," the teacher said. "When you have little ones running around, it becomes unsafe."

'Struggling mentally'

The teacher said syringes have been found in the park, and that residents have been spotted naked and sometimes seen setting up makeshift camps on the sidewalk.

"Obviously they don't get the help they deserve," she said. "These people are not just struggling financially. They're struggling mentally."

Heather said she has seen residents wandering the area in bizarre outfits — including one woman dressed as a devil and another in a towel and ski goggles.

"They're getting half a billion dollars to do this and clearly they're not providing the services they're supposed to," she said.

Project Renewal's financial records show the nonprofit received nearly $104 million in government grants during fiscal year 2025.

A spokesperson for the Department of Social Services, which manages the shelter contract, said the location is already providing the women with much-needed services.

"This recently opened site is currently equipped with clinicians, case managers, and other social services staff to address the complex needs of each client and help them on their unique path to recovery and permanent housing," the spokesperson said.

Inject on street

But Stacy Lefton, who has lived in the area for 17 years, said the once-quiet area has become unrecognizable.

"This is a family neighborhood," she said. "I see the women fighting with each other."

Lefton said ambulances are called to the shelter sometimes as much as four times a day. Over one recent weekend, she said, a woman spent hours outside without pants or underwear.

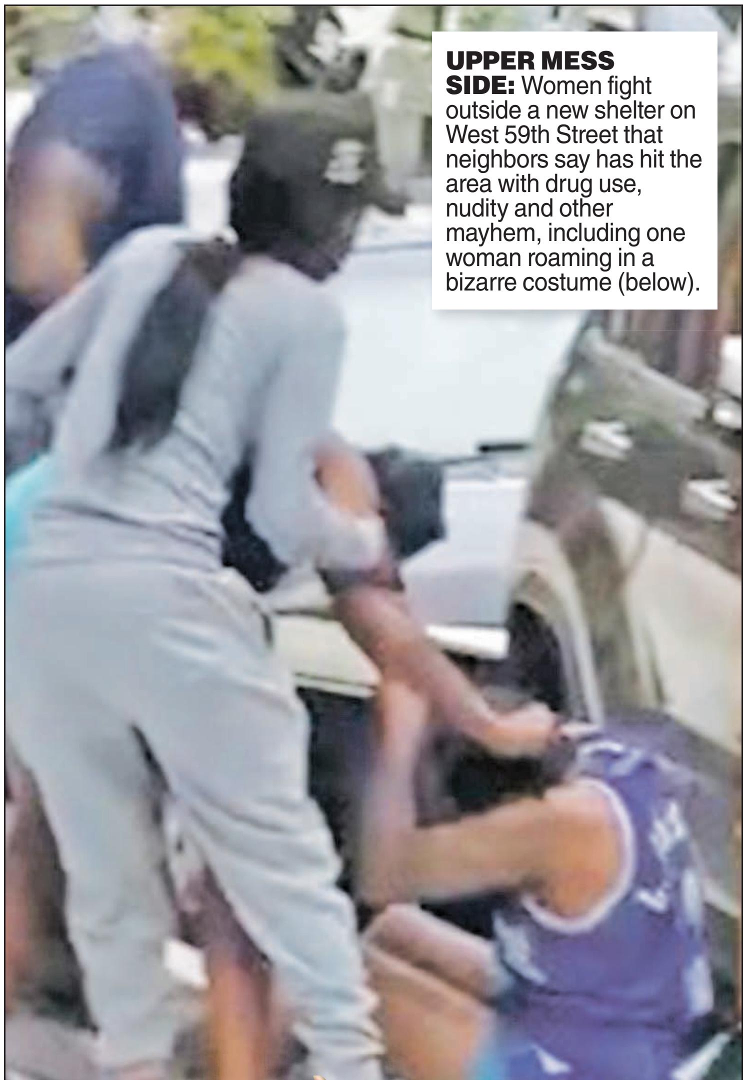
Lefton also said that during a walk with her dog she saw another woman sit in the street, pull out a needle, inject herself and pass out.

City Councilwoman Gale Brewer said her office has received dozens of complaints. "I was not supportive of this, but we're trying to deal with it," Brewer said.

Brewer said she also wants answers about when the clinic will finally open. The spokesperson from the DSS said the clinic is still waiting on government approvals.

A spokesperson for Project Renewal did not respond to an inquiry from The Post.

The group Friends of Ederle Playground asked the city Department of Investigation in 2023 to probe the $500 million, 40-year government contract awarded during the final months of the de Blasio administration.



UPPER MESS SIDE: Women fight outside a new shelter on West 59th Street that neighbors say has hit the area with drug use, nudity and other mayhem, including one woman roaming in a bizarre costume (below).

NY parent push for school aid

A coalition representing religious private school parents is ramping up pressure on Gov. Hochul to opt into a federal tax-credit program that would make more than 2.7 million students in the Empire State eligible for "freedom scholarships."

Hochul has said New York will participate in the Education Freedom Tax Credit — passed by Congress and signed by President Trump as part of the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" — but the influential teachers' union has since launched a campaign urging her to change her mind.

Now, Scholarships for All NY, or Teach Coalition — which reps Jewish and Catholic schools, along with public school families — is countering with its own six-figure ad campaign in digital and print news outlets statewide.

"This campaign is a broad alliance coming together behind one simple goal: encouraging Gov. Hochul to opt into the Education Freedom Tax Credit," said Sydney Altfield, CEO of Teach Coalition that represents Jewish schools.

Dennis Poust, executive director of the New York State Catholic Conference, said, "We're giving Gov. Hochul air support to opt into the program."

Advocates say 31 states, covering 31 million students — including 2.7 million in the Empire State — have opted to take part in the school choice initiative.

The program provides a 100% federal tax credit for donations of up to $1,700 annually to approved scholarship-granting organizations, according to the US Department of Education.

Carl Campanile

Kirk 'killer's' wild defense

Tyler Robinson should dodge the death penalty because his bullet only "hit the intended target" when it killed conservative activist Charlie Kirk, his lawyers bizarrely say in court papers.

Robinson's attorneys claimed no other person was in danger during Kirk's Turning Point USA event at Utah Valley University on Sept. 10 last year — an aggravating factor that would make it a capital crime.

"The only evidence presented supports that the bullet traveled above, not through, the crowd," defense attorneys wrote late Tuesday to stop the case from proceeding to trial.

Prosecutors said Robinson loaded his rifle with four bullets, suggesting that he knew he could miss Kirk and "thereby putting others in danger," according to documents filed last month.

Closing arguments in the preliminary hearing are set for Sept. 1.

Ronny Reyes with Wires

$ubscribers toss services

You're canceled!

That's what cash-strapped consumers suffering from subscription overload are increasingly telling the streamers, services and apps they no longer can afford.

As prices for the essentials — groceries, gas, rent, utilities — continue to skyrocket, Americans are cutting wherever they can.

A Deloitte report showed 52% of consumers canceled at least one subscription in the last six months.

Joe Rohrlich, CEO of subscription-management platform Recurly, broke down its latest report revealing Millennials and Gen Zers canceled at a higher rate than any other age group.

"The number one reason, in 2025, why consumers told us they canceled was they weren't using the product or the service enough to justify the ongoing subscriptions," he told The Post.

Those not canceling are likely pausing, according to Recurly.

Aurielle Weiss

Miranda Devine

mdevine@nypost.c

Hunter Lie-den laptop revision

FOR Hunter and Joe Biden, lying becomes so habitual they eventually lose grip on reality. Joe had power so people were inclined to believe his fabrications. Hunter is a former crack addict, deadbeat dad and pardoned felon so the only people he can get to swallow his lies are podcasters hungry for views.

Hence his newfound fame, this week care of Tucker Carlson.

The degenerate former first son shapeshifts to suit the proclivities of each interviewer, so he played to Carlson's newfound paranoia about Israel, insinuating "Netanyahu" or "Mossad" were involved in hacking/stealing/fabricating his laptop/cloud, even though he previously blamed Russia.

My colleague Steven Nelson has already listed some of the flagrant lies in the interview. Garrett Ziegler of nonprofit Marco Polo is set to release a video listing 100 lies.

It's a tiresome but necessary task to ensure Hunter (far right with Carlson) doesn't rewrite history as delusion with the help of his new media friends.

Hunter's central lie is that he never took three waterlogged laptops for repair at John Paul Mac Isaac's computer repair store in Wilmington, Del.

"I have literally zero recollection or memory of ever dropping off a laptop at John Paul Mac Isaac's," Hunter told Carlson.

Overwhelming evidence

Then he embarked on a meandering mélange of half-expressed falsehoods, throwing up Ukrainian, Russian and Chinese names, and, for Carlson's benefit, the name of an Israeli-American "[Yaacov] Apelbaum." More on him later.

"There is no such thing as a laptop. The laptop that [Mac Isaac] eventually turns over . . . to the FBI, the thing that [he] claims that he got off of a device was a hard drive . . . What he finds through this guy Apelbaum is Rudy Giuliani's lawyer, Bob Costello . . .

"There's no possible way all of the information that was eventually labeled as my laptop came from one laptop. It's way too large . . . They hacked my cloud . . . There's the Netanyahu side, the Israeli side. There is a Russian Ukrainian side of it. And then there are the US actors that include Steve Bannon, Rudy Giuliani, Miles Guo and a whole bunch of — Lev Parnas and Igor Fruman and all of these guys."

Carlson's response to this incomprehensible nonsense is: "I agree."

By lying about the provenance of the laptop, Hunter hopes to cast doubt on the evidence of corruption it contains.

But the chain of custody is rock solid and documented.

■ Hunter's signature is on the repair receipt ("Quote #7469") for $85 from Mac Isaac's store, for "Attempt data recovery from 3 macbook pros."

■ The FBI seized the laptop on Dec. 9, 2019, after Mac Issac contacted them. Two agents arrived at his store with a subpoena signed by Delaware Assistant US attorney Lesley Wolf, whose boss David Weiss was running a money-laundering and tax fraud investigation of Hunter that had been launched by the IRS. The agents gave Mac Isaac a receipt for the laptop and a hard drive.

■ The FBI geo-located Hunter's cellphone to track him to the Sikar Cigar Lounge in Wilmington, just around the corner from Mac Isaac's store on April 12, 2019, right before he dropped off the laptops at 6:50 p.m., according to DOJ filings and forensic evidence introduced by prosecutors in Hunter's 2024 federal gun trial in Delaware. Prosecutors used financial transaction history and location logs to corroborate Mac Isaac's timeline. Mac Isaac is legally blind, but he can see up close. He recognized Hunter when he told him his name and smelled booze and cigar smoke on him.

Tucker's flip-flop

■ The FBI's Computer Analysis and Response Team verified the authenticity and ownership of the laptop, assessed that "it was not manipulated in any way," and deemed it fit for use as evidence in court, according to IRS Agent Gary Shapley's 2023 testimony before the House Ways and Means Committee. Federal court filings at Hunter's Delaware trial validated Shapley's testimony.

■ The silver MacBook Pro 13 was displayed to the jury in the Wilmington courtroom on June 4, 2024 by prosecutor Derek Hines before he showed it to his first witness, FBI Agent Erika Jensen, who confirmed it was Hunter's laptop from the serial number on the back. I was in court that day. Hunter and his lawyers were there, too, and did not object to the use of his laptop. The jury in the Bidens' hometown took three hours to find Hunter guilty on all three felony charges,

■ Pretrial court filings for Hunter's September 2024 tax fraud felony trial in California show prosecutors intended to use the laptop as evidence but Hunter pleaded guilty to all nine charges on the first day of the trial before the jury was selected. Three months later his father gave him a retrospective presidential pardon covering all offenses committed from Jan 1, 2014, the start of the Ukraine grift.

It's inexplicable that Carlson went along with Hunter's deceptions. When he was at Fox News, he was among the most cogent and well-informed prosecutors of the case after this newspaper broke the story on Oct. 14, 2020, three weeks before the election.

He invited me on his Fox show for seven of the next eight days to present evidence from the laptop that showed Joe Biden had participated in his family's influence-peddling scheme during his vice presidency. Hunter, Joe's brother Jim, and partners made tens of millions of dollars monetizing Joe's power in corrupt countries where he was pointman for the Obama administration.

Back then, Carlson railed against the Dirty 51 coverup, Big Tech censorship and the media blackout on the story.

Corruption whitewashed

But now he has joined the Bidens in casting doubt on the provenance of the laptop.

"The official story comes out about how . . . you left a couple of laptops in a laptop repair store," he told Hunter.

"But the story did not make sense. Meanwhile, we get approached by Israelis connected to Benjamin Netanyahu who are shopping this stuff to me at Fox News . . . The laptop is real . . . But the way that it entered the bloodstream of the American media was not real."

Neither Hunter nor Carlson explains how "Netanyahu" was involved, but the chain of custody shows no Israeli input. Hunter was always losing his devices.

The one Israeli name Hunter tossed out was Apelbaum, an Israeli-American "computer guy" who met with Mac Isaac on October 18, 2020, four days after The Post broke the story, when he was besieged by media and scared for his life.

Mac Isaac told me that a friend of his father's, former CIA analyst Larry Johnson, introduced Apelbaum as his "computer guy" who could help confirm that the laptop was legitimate.

After meeting Mac Isaac, Apelbaum contacted Carlson in late October to give him a file from the laptop. Apelbaum did not reply to my questions, so I don't know why he wanted to contact Carlson who was already airing the story every night. Apelbaum recently won a defamation lawsuit against someone who called him an Israeli spy.

The pity is that by placing doubt on the origins of the laptop, the Biden corruption that Mac Isaac risked so much to expose is whitewashed.

Carlson once cared about that.

THE BATTLE FOR IRAN

DON: IRAN STRAIT

MARK DUBOWITZ & RICHARD GOLDBERG

Tehran is losing grip on Hormuz

ALL the noise around Iran's supposed stranglehold on oil supplies transiting through the Strait of Hormuz is missing the point.

The reality is that the combination of Operations Midnight Hammer and Epic Fury upended the regime's hopes of turning Hormuz into a permanent hostage.

Its ruling clerics will now pay the price for activating a blockade without their most important insurance cards — perhaps sooner than they think.

Had the regime in Tehran followed late Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei's plan — weaponized its nuclear program, built an arsenal of thousands of ballistic missiles and drones and assembled its regional proxies into an even more formidable force — then its blockade of Hormuz would likely be permanent.

That kind of potency would have deterred American and Israeli action and rebuilt Iran's economy into a formidable global energy power.

Instead, after several months of airstrikes by the US and Israel, Iran's nuclear and missile programs are badly damaged, and its economy is collapsing from a blockade and sanctions.

Flowing elsewhere

Its terrorist allies around the region, from the Houthis in Yemen to Hezbollah in Lebanon, are no longer the threat that they were on Oct. 7, 2023 — the day of the deadly invasion of Israel by Iran-backed Hamas.

Simply put, a weakened Iran played its Hormuz card too soon. Each day that goes by leaves its regime more vulnerable to military and economic pressure. The results are already becoming visible.

According to US Energy Secretary Chris Wright, an average of 9 million barrels of oil are passing through Hormuz daily, while 5 million to 7 million barrels are reaching consumers through "newly upgraded pipelines and export facilities."

Wright's figures have been disputed by oil industry analysts and other commentators, who insist that the true number of barrels is much lower, arguing that the situation in Hormuz means that oil exports will continue at a trickle.

But that ignores many ships moving covertly through Hormuz with US assistance, going uncounted by analysts who rely solely on open-source data.

It also ignores the spectacular transformation of the oil export route that's underway.

The United Arab Emirates is fast-tracking a new west-east pipeline to Fujairah, which will allow exports to bypass Hormuz at minimal cost.

The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company announced in May that construction was about 50% complete, with operations expected to launch next year.

The Saudis are moving in a similar direction, seeking to add 1 million to 2 million barrels per day of capacity to their east-west network to the Red Sea.

The United States should actively work with its Gulf allies to eclipse Iran even further.

The US Development Finance Corporation, which possesses $205 billion in investment capacity, is uniquely capable of facilitating export routes that avoid Hormuz. It can demand a significant share of the equity in this burgeoning consortium, with the benefits passed on to US taxpayers.

Stay the course

The situation further afield works to America's favor, with the US setting records for oil and gas production and exports.

Venezuela's exports reached some 1.16 million barrels per day in July, with roughly 786,000 of those heading to the US.

The real loser here is China, which relies on Middle Eastern oil far more than the US does.

Alternative routes out of the region coupled with non-Middle Eastern oil will bolster US dominance of energy markets while reducing the leverage of both China and Iran.

This is the direction in which we are heading, but we're not at our destination yet.

That's why President Trump needs to double down and resist the temptation to cut a deal with Iran that legitimizes its control over Hormuz.

Better to focus on marginalizing Iran so that its threats are empty ones.

That will truly be a legacy for future generations.

Mark Dubowitz is chief executive of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, where Richard Goldberg is a senior adviser.

AFP via Getty Images

US 'controls' waterway with 'Wall of Steel'

By RONNY REYES

WASHINGTON — President Trump claimed Wednesday that the US has complete control of the Strait of Hormuz, one day after Energy Secretary Chris Wright confirmed increasing oil exports from the crucial waterway as Iran's economy continues to free fall.

"The U.S.A. has total control over the Strait of Hormuz. I THINK WE WILL KEEP IT!" Trump proclaimed on Truth Social.

"Our Naval Blockade is being called, by everyone, 'A WALL OF STEEL,' and there is nothing Iran can do about it," he added.

The US renewed its blockade on Iranian ports last month, with the president opting to hit Tehran with economic pressure to force the Islamic Republic to sue for peace.

Meanwhile, Wright announced on X Tuesday that the seven-day average of oil leaving the strait was up to almost 9 million barrels per day.

"When combined with the additional 5-7 million barrels per day leaving the region via newly upgraded pipelines and export facilities, total oil flows are currently averaging approximately 15 million barrels per day," he added. "On Sunday alone, over 20 million barrels left the Arabian gulf region, which is above the pre-conflict average."

'All talk, no action'

Only 84 vessels were recorded going through the strait last week, according to maritime data firm Kpler. However, a source familiar with the situation told The Post many firms undercount the number of ships leaving the Strait of Hormuz due to the necessity of maintaining secrecy.

Under the previous US Navy blockade which lasted from April 13 through

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IRGC goes on 'offensive'

Iran is reshaping its military and appointing hard-liners vowing to take the "offensive" against enemies both abroad and at home.

The country's reclusive Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei appointed six veteran military and security figures this week to enact a new "offensive doctrine," Mohammad Reza Naqdi, an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps general, told state news media

The changes signal a move away from Iran's prewar defensive focus, Naqdi said.

"The emphasis on offensive operations, unified command, and faster decision-making," suggests a break from a "more cautious approach to deterrence toward what could be described as offensive deterrence," Hamidreza Azizi, at the Clingendael Institute think tank, told CNN. *Ronny Reyes*

OUT OF OPTIONS

June 18, only about 2.1 million barrels of oil were escaping the strait every day under the threat of Iranian military action.

"In coordination with the US military, the US Department of Energy maintains the best available data related to oil and oil products leaving the Arabian gulf," a spokesperson told The Post on Wednesday.

In his message Wednesday, Trump said of Iran:

"They have no Navy, they have no Air Force, their remaining soldiers are unpaid, the IRGC is decimated and fleeing, and their 'Leadership' is uncertain, at best!

"They have No Money — Their country is 'shot.' All they have is FAKE NEWS and 300% INFLATION, and getting worse!" he concluded. "Iran is all talk and no action, the Bully of the Middle East No Longer. Praise be to Allah!"

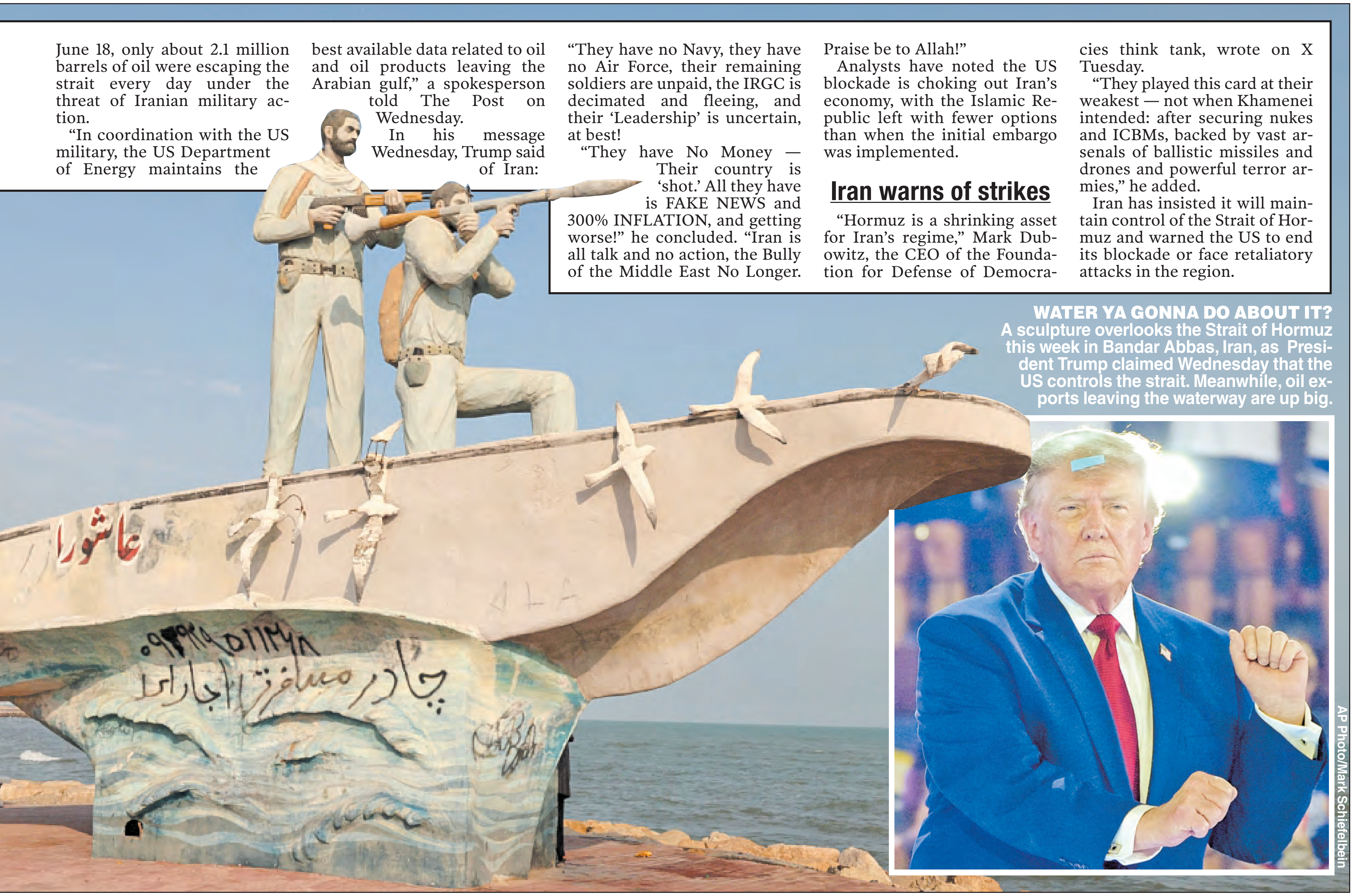
Analysts have noted the US blockade is choking out Iran's economy, with the Islamic Republic left with fewer options than when the initial embargo was implemented.

Iran warns of strikes

"Hormuz is a shrinking asset for Iran's regime," Mark Dubowitz, the CEO of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies think tank, wrote on X Tuesday.

"They played this card at their weakest — not when Khamenei intended: after securing nukes and ICBMs, backed by vast arsenals of ballistic missiles and drones and powerful terror armies," he added.

Iran has insisted it will maintain control of the Strait of Hormuz and warned the US to end its blockade or face retaliatory attacks in the region.



WATER YA GONNA DO ABOUT IT? A sculpture overlooks the Strait of Hormuz this week in Bandar Abbas, Iran, as President Trump claimed Wednesday that the US controls the strait. Meanwhile, oil exports leaving the waterway are up big.

AP Photo/Mark Schiefelbein

Rocket launcher set off Air Force One ruse

WASHINGTON — President Trump's decision to sneak off Air Force One aboard a catering truck and use a military plane to fly out of Turkey last month was motivated by fears that Iranian operatives could use a shoulder-launched rocket to blow the presidential jet out of the sky.

An unidentified person was seen with a shoulder-fired missile near the annual NATO conference in Ankara, and US intelligence learned Iran had tracked down information about which hotel floor Trump was staying on, The New York Times reported.

Other news outlets, including CNN, confirmed that the threat of a shoulder-fired missile prompted the secret switch.

The president confirmed the stealthy mission Tuesday evening.

"I go by Secret Service and the military. They wanted me to go in a different flight, a different plane for safety. They wanted me to do it, so I did it. I did what they said," Trump told reporters.

The Washington Post revealed Monday that Trump had used a smaller military plane to leave Turkey on July 8 after he was photographed boarding Air Force One — with reporters and many senior aides aboard unaware of the hastily devised change.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Secretary of State Marco Rubio and White House communications director Steven Cheung remained on Air Force One, which served as a decoy, while War Secretary Pete Hegseth and Deputy Chief of Staff Dan Scavino went with Trump. US fighter jets were in the air to protect both planes.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment.

Steven Nelson

Eric's Angels ethereal 'scam'

ERIC Adams associate **Alisa Roever** is once again promoting an event for her charity, Angels Helpers, that, according to sources, doesn't appear to exist.

The former mayor is listed as a co-founder on the charity's website, and his brother **Bernard**, who was initially listed as a co-founder, is now identified as a board member.

Roever recently posted a flyer promoting a New Year's Eve bash featuring **Snoop Dogg**, **50 Cent** and **DJ Khaled**, plastered with the logos of Angels Helpers, the Big Art Festival and FIFA. The flyer claimed the event would benefit Angels Helpers and directed would-be guests to a website that did not work when we tried it.

She also reposted someone's story of the flyer that had the caption: "For tickets contact Alisa Roever. And see you there!"

There's just one problem: Sources connected to Snoop Dogg and 50 Cent tell us neither star is booked for the bash, and they weren't even aware of it.

We hear Big Art Festival is, in fact, holding an event with 50 Cent in St. Barts on that date, but it's an intimate concert that is not ticketed and has no affiliation with Angels Helpers.

A rep for the "Candy Shop" rapper confirmed he is not booked for an event with Angels Helpers. When we began making calls on the phantom event, Roever's post disappeared.

A rep for Adams told us he was unavailable for comment. We did not hear back from reps for DJ Khaled or Snoop, and Roever did not respond to a request for comment.

This isn't the first time Roever has proclaimed to be holding an event connected to Adams before shamelessly walking it back.

In March 2025, Page Six reported that Roever was promising another pie-in-the-sky affair: an after-party for **Anna Wintour**'s Met Gala at Gracie Mansion, dubbed the Mayor Gala.

But an Adams rep told us the mayor had never heard of the event.

Page Six®

Ian Mohr
imohr@nypost.com

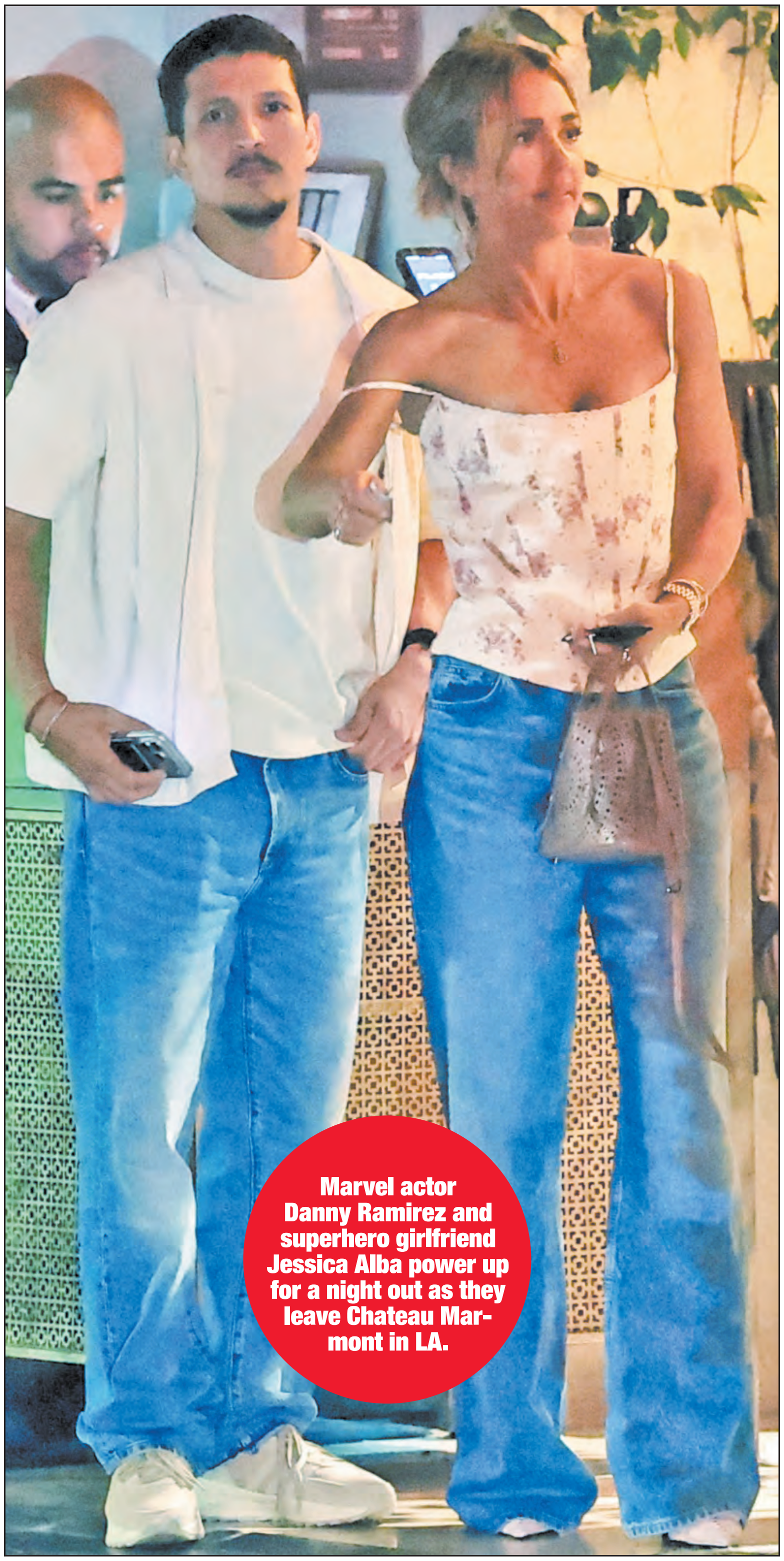
Oli Coleman
ocoleman@nypost.com
Mara Siegler
msiegler@nypost.com
Carlos Greer
cgreer@nypost.com

Well supported

P.R. guru **Kelly Cutrone** had a bosom time at her client **Susan Holmes McKagan**'s "The Velvet Rose" book signing at Bookmarc in the West Village Tuesday night. The event brought out New York '80s icon **Dianne Brill**, who had Cutrone reminiscing about her very first pushup bra. "You probably don't remember this, but it was 1987, and you taught me how to wear a pushup bra," Cutrone gushed to Brill. Busty Brill was flattered, telling Page Six, "[Cutrone] looks terrific. The way I love it. I think something about putting a pushup bra on — the whole act, it's some sort of a salute to femininity." The event brought out **Richard Fortus** and **Mary Alice Stephenson**, among others.

Wins got no love

WINNING wasn't always cause for celebration for tennis great **Serena Williams**. She revealed during a fireside chat at Invest Fest that it took her a while to give herself a pat on the back. "In the beginning I never celebrated a win," Williams (above) told the crowd in Atlanta. She said it was in "the second half of my career" when she "celebrated the championships because it was fun, and you never know if you're going to win another one." We hear she will return to the court this month for pickleball at the Lotte New York Palace courtyard.



Marvel actor Danny Ramirez and superhero girlfriend Jessica Alba power up for a night out as they leave Chateau Marmont in LA.

BACKGRID

Abuela takeover

PEREZ Hilton's mom has filed for temporary custody of the blogger's three children after his self-harm incident. PageSix.com's **Teresa Roca** can exclusively reveal **Teresita Lavandeira** filed for temporary custody of Hilton's three children — **Mario**, 13, **Mia**, 11, and **Mayte**, 8 — on Friday. Miami court papers show Hilton "voluntarily consented" to the custody request. "I realize that by signing this document, I am consenting to the Petitioner having temporary legal custody of the minor children and that such temporary custody is in the best interest of the children," the documents read. Hilton's mom can now oversee medical and dental care for his children, gain access to their medical, vital and educational records, make educational decisions and "do all other things necessary for the care of the children." This comes after Hilton made a "suicide attempt" on livestream last week.

Fired journo sues

FALLOUT from the legal saga between **Blake Lively** (above) and **Justin Baldoni** has produced another lawsuit. Showbiz reporter **James Vituscka** is suing his former employer, the Daily Mail, claiming he was terminated after becoming embroiled in the actors' drama. According to court docs obtained by Page Six, Vituscka's texts with Lively's publicist and Baldoni's reps were used in court paperwork. Vituscka claims he wanted to hire his own attorney, but alleges the Daily Mail discouraged him and "pressured" him into making a statement that he "regretted" his actions. The Mail "categorically" denies his allegations.

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Babe enjoys royal welcome

PRINCE **Harry** and **Meghan Markle** made a sweet impression at the 40th anniversary celebration of the **David Foster** Foundation in Victoria, Canada, over the weekend, with pregnant singer **Pia Toscano** telling Page Six about a touching moment between the Duchess of Sussex and her unborn baby. Toscano, who has worked with Foster since 2017, performed "Feeling Good" at the star-studded event. She told us that after performing, she approached Harry and Meghan at the head table and Meghan touched her stomach. The couple hugged her and offered congratulations. "This is the most beautiful time of your life," Meghan told her. Toscano also recalled Harry being a gentleman and moving a chair for her. Meghan, 45, and Harry, 41, have two children: son **Archie**, 7, and daughter **Lilibet**, 5. Meghan has been candid about the realities of pregnancy and motherhood, especially the vulnerability of being pregnant while under intense public scrutiny. Recently, however, Meghan has spoken warmly about motherhood, describing it in 2025 as "better than I ever expected." **Bill Gates**, **Adam Levine**, **Josh Groban** and **CeeLo Green** also attended the celebration for the foundation, which provides financial support to Canadian families with children who need life-saving organ transplants.

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Staging my big break

Cindy Adams

SUMMERTIME. When all good wives go to the country and all bad husbands go to their girlfriends.

For young people a warm weather activity is summer stock — such an education that sometimes you even learn acting. One season I had five major roles and two minor affairs. I didn't end up the best actress — but I was the happiest.

The first season I just apprenticed. Clearly, I was no four-star super-talented Piper Laurie. I made scenery, polished flats, scrubbed dressing rooms, built furniture. Come Labor Day I was ready for my future — as a professional home wrecker. That year our company was so talented that three apprentices landed jobs: two as cabinet makers and one as an interior decorator.

I was told that to achieve success, one must struggle. However, the connection between cleaning latrines and stardom still escapes me.

Summer stock then was barns, haylofts, an occasional building, often a mudhole. Bats, bugs, worms and fields had more space than the players.

Straw-hat revues booked urban talent at suburban prices in exurban areas. Nothing's as great as "Hamlet" in Pittsburgh, Tennessee Williams off a hayloft or the aroma of "King Lear" in a cow barn.

Today everybody does barns. Look soon for **Fauci** to play Julius Caesar in Detroit.

Many pros use Eastgunk as a proving ground. Venues so crowded with old-timers there's no room for newcomers. By the time young'uns get a shot they're already old-timers.

Cindy had a short run in summer stock, but made it to bigger stages, here with Ed Sullivan (left) and husband Joey.

Actresses occasionally smell that a real producer is out front just a proscenium away. She figures this is her chance. Actually it was her figure that was her chance. Little does she know he's hibernating. He's locked himself up in the whiskey closet, won't come out until November.

The season I semi-slayed the audience was the year I was in "Blithe Spirit." Took years to convince me this wasn't the only play available. My Broadway career wasn't lengthy. Came offers from a Florida company. That's when I learned "Hamlet" wasn't a coffee shop.

DURING this warm weather season and the Iran war, our entire country has basically been put on Alert. Makes us remember those good old days when the only time our USA sent out alerts was when they were talking about Elizabeth Taylor Hilton Wilding Todd Fisher Burton Burton Warner Fortensky and her next husband.

Only in New York, kids, plus all the other states.

A taxing campaign

NOW, back to the real world's civilization and our pols and our elections and que pasa with the performance of NY's political actors.

Cue in **Bruce Blakeman** of whom you may have heard. I somehow never got to know him well, even over the usual day-old tuna-fish sandwich at some century-old political club. I only know I just received a bit of political news.

It was reported to me that he was on radio a day ago, saying: "I didn't raise them [meaning taxes] even by a penny. Not by a penny."

OK. But appears he did. First in 1998. Voted to raise Nassau property taxes 3.6%. Voted again to raise a second time in 1999. Was raised 9.4%.

But he was just on radio this week saying, "I didn't raise them a penny."

Could that be Liar, Liar, pants on fire? Easy, Bruce.

TV spies in ‘pair’adise

VARIETY
Television’s
First Couple

Power couple Keri Russell and Matthew Rhys, nominated for a combined five Emmys, give Variety a rare interview on their lives after six seasons together as Soviet spies in FX’s “The Americans.”

Gavin Bond for Variety

Steady seniors live long

Seniors, listen up.

A new study suggests that how well you perform on a simple balance test could offer clues about how well you’re aging — and your chances of making it through the next seven years.

Researchers found that older adults who performed best on the at-home assessment were about half as likely to die during the follow-up period as those with the lowest scores.

The study involved more than 13,000 adults ages 65 and older in Taiwan, who took tests measuring balance and agility, muscle strength, heart and lung endurance, and flexibility.

The strongest predictor was the “8-foot up-and-go” balance and agility test, which has participants stand, walk 8 feet around a cone and sit back down. The highest scorers had a 59% lower mortality risk than the lowest scorers.

Those best able to stand on one leg with their eyes open for 30 seconds had about half the mortality risk. *McKenzie Beard*

OH, SIS, WHAT A TWIST!

Reuters

Pals find they’re sibs

By NATALIE O’NEILL

Soul sisters, reunited!

Two childhood friends discovered through a DNA test they are long-lost sisters decades after being adopted — completing a deep “missing piece” of their personal identities, they said.

Meena and Minal (above) were adopted from an orphanage in India 40 years ago and grew up 100 miles apart in the Netherlands, both with feelings of loneliness and longing for answers about their biological families, they said.

“When I see you, it’s like I’m home,” Meena Geltink, 43, told her sibling at a joyful and tearful reunion Tuesday.

“For years, I felt a hole in my heart,” said Geltink, who is a mother of three. “It’s like a missing puzzle piece has been found.”

The pair first became friends in 1996 at a meetup for adopted kids, where they felt drawn to each other without knowing they were sisters.

People commented on how much alike they looked and the girls jokingly called each other “sis” before swapping addresses.

They fell out of touch for 15 years before learning via a MyHeritage DNA test in April they were a 100% sibling match.

Minal Tijssen, 44, who lives in France with her partner and two sons, was sitting on the couch in April when her phone pinged with the DNA results.

Photo proved it

“I couldn’t believe it,” she said.

Tijssen didn’t realize it was the same teenage girl she had chemistry with 30 years ago, until she found her on social media and looked at photos.

She had no record of any birth relatives and felt loved by her adopted family but still felt lingering loneliness throughout life, she said.

At their first meeting since learning they were sisters, in ‘s-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, the women hugged, laughed and cried. They also snapped a selfie together, beaming.

“We were friends before we were sisters,” Tijssen said. “We were sisters the whole time, but we didn’t know.” *With Wires*

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NOAM LADEN

MONDAY-FRIDAY 5AM-6AM

JAKE NOVAK

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 5AM-6AM

alexa

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WON'T FLY

Cop union rips Rama trip

By HANNAH FIERICK
and JORGE FITZ-GIBBON

There's no way NYPD cops should put themselves in harm's way by tagging along with Big Apple First Lady Rama Duwaji on a risky "social" trip to the war-torn Middle East, the boss of the city's detective union said.

"This isn't about politics at all — it's not about politics," NYPD Detectives Endowment Association President Scott Munro said Wednesday. "This is about keeping the New York City detectives safe, out of harm's way. Let them do their job here in New York City. That's what they're here for.

"It's a no-fly area. It's a no-go zone," Munro added. "We are not going there."

'Do not travel'

A rep for Mayor Mamdani announced earlier this week that Duwaji would take her NYPD security detail with her when she travels to visit family in the Middle East next month — only to have police brass shoot down the idea on Tuesday.

A red-faced Mamdani blamed the gaffe on "miscommunication" between City Hall and the NYPD.

RAMA DUWAJI
Personal trip.

Duwaji is scheduled to leave on Sept. 20 for personal trips to Syria and Lebanon, where she has relatives.

But both countries are on the US State Department's Level 4 "Do Not Travel" list, the nation's highest security advisory reserved for countries that carry an "extreme risk" of terrorism, civil unrest or crime.

In a statement Tuesday, an NYPD spokesperson said the department "does not send officers to countries with level four travel advisories for discretionary reasons not linked to investigative work.

"This is not an investigative trip, and therefore, NYPD personnel will not be traveling there for it."

One source familiar with the mishap had told The Post on Tuesday that City Hall "never checked with the [police] commissioner."

Risky expense

Duwaji, who is Syrian-American, had traveled last month without police protection to the French island of Corsica and the Spanish island of Mallorca.

A source with knowledge of the trip said the first lady's trip was "not official business."

Former NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton said sending a detail would be a nightmare because of the expense and coordination with the federal government.

Munro said Wednesday that perhaps the awkward blunder by the Mamdani administration was due to "a lack of communication," and added that "maybe there's a lack of experience at City Hall."

It's not clear what the police escort would have cost taxpayers but the price tag would have been at least thousands.

Round-trip flights to Beirut in September were tracking for several hundred dollars, with a driver to cross Syria estimated at roughly $2,000.

Zo sparks 'upstate' debate

They're just north of nitpicky.

Mayor Mamdani announced Wednesday he's going on vacation "upstate" next week — reigniting a heated, hyper-specific debate about where exactly the region begins.

"The mayor will be in upstate New York enjoying time with family," City Hall said of the Aug. 16-23 trip. "First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan will lead day-to-day operations until the mayor's return."

The news sparked an argument on X about where the invisible border of upstate New York begins.

"This brings up a great question IMO: Where exactly IS upstate New York?" tweeted Gothamist reporter Jon Campbell.

"Anything North of Bronx County, naturally," one apparent New Yorker replied — as another quipped, "He's going to Yonkers."

"Where the Metro-North train ends," a third user chimed in.

"Above 14th Street," another teased.

The debate over where "upstate" begins has long simmered, with Westchester County residents notoriously thin-skinned about being told they're on the north side of cool.

The City Hall reps and media members have weighed in on the debate, with answers ranging from "beyond Yankee Stadium" to above the Hudson Valley.

While there's no official geographic demarcation, others have said some towns that are geographically more south, such as "Poughkeepsie," simply feel spiritually "upstate."

Mamdani declined to say exactly where he was headed after a press conference Wednesday morning.

His NYPD detail is also expected to go with him.

Natalie O'Neill

DANIEL STEIGER

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De-Flock the police

But I'm not going to stop until we are safe from Flock

@nomark.project/ TikTok

Pull the plug on license tag cameras

SHOW'S OVER: The movement vs. Flock surveillance cameras is growing as vandals (left) are taking to the street to remove some of the 120,000 cams across the US.

RIKKI SCHLOTT

IN our intensely divided moment, there's one thing the right and left seem to agree on: They hate Flock cameras.

The cameras are installed in most urban areas across the country and record the license plate number of every car that drives past them, storing information about people's movement in a database, for use by local governments and police departments.

According to the company, Flock has 120,000 active cameras across the United States. Many police departments and investigators claim they make solving crimes and locating individuals easier than ever.

But critics are stacking up, citing alleged police misuse, privacy rights violations and mass surveillance.

"It reminds me of these sci-fi AI, like, the government's-watching-you kind of movies," anti-Flock organizer Brian McKellar told The Post.

Over the past several months, Flock cameras have been the cause of constant protests and the formation of grassroots groups against them, like DeFlock. Vigilante vandals have even taken to obstructing and destroying the cameras themselves.

Bipartisan movement

Perhaps the most interesting feature is the protests aren't along party lines. Progressive social media like Bluesky is flooded with people accusing the cameras of being tools of a fascist government, while conservatives with a libertarian streak tend to see it as an issue of big government overreach into our private lives.

McKellar, of Idaho Falls, is a self-identified conservative who believes in law and order, but he thinks the cameras go too far.

"I don't live in Idaho because I want to be surveilled all the time. I like the country. I like the West. I like being in the Wild, Wild West," he told The Post.

McKellar, 40, only became aware that his local police department had taken to using Flock cameras for surveillance last year, when another resident made a complaint about them during a town hall meeting.

'Extra set of eyes'

The revelation disturbed him so much he helped launch DeFlock Idaho. It's a grassroots organization of citizens, who pressure city councils to reject Flock cameras and work to obtain public records about how they're being used.

"It's not even just the feds anymore. It's the city and the county that can now watch and surveil me in detail," McKellar told The Post. "This is definitely not just a conservative issue. I don't think there's a line between where you sit on a party affiliation."

A spokesperson for Flock told The Post their technology "supported more than 1 million criminal investigations and public-safety incidents" in 2025 and was used in 20% of solved cases in jurisdictions that use the cameras.

They also claim more than 10,000 missing people were located using Flock that year.

"Every chief in this state that has these can go over scenario, after scenario, after scenario where it has helped solve crime," Paul Melanson, a police chief in Farmington, Conn., said in a Tuesday press conference.

Or as Chief Deputy Patrick Frazier of the Adams County Sheriff's Office in Illinois put it: "It's like having extra sets of eyes."

But one major concern raised by critics is police misuse of data. There are no uniform national rules restricting how the information collected by Flock cameras can be accessed or used, and police departments across the country have wildly different retention periods for the data.

"We're seeing officers abusing the system to stalk their exes [and] women that they're interested in," Dave Maass, director of investigations at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, told The Post.

The Institute for Justice reports that, in just the past five years, there have been 39 cases of romantic stalking by police via Flock camera. Officers have used the devices to track the movements of current, former or prospective partners who have no connection to a crime or investigation.

In one especially shocking incident, Former Deputy Jaquarius Yarbrough of Richmond County, Va., allegedly used the license plate tracking system to stalk a woman he was having an affair with 1,639 times over several months.

The potential consequences of false positives are also a major concern of Flock's opponents. An internal analysis by police in Roseville, Calif., found that 71% of alerts for stolen or felony-linked vehicles sent by Flock cameras to the department contained misread license plate numbers.

'Problematic'

Patrick Eddington, a senior fellow in homeland security and civil liberties at the Cato Institute, says this "vehicle fingerprinting system" almost certainly raises constitutional concerns.

"I don't think there's any doubt that this is ultimately a Fourth Amendment issue," he told The Post, referring to the amendment which protects Americans against unreasonable searches and seizures by the government and requires warrants to be based on probable cause.

"When people are just going about their daily lives, and having the government collect this data on them in the absence of any kind of criminal predicate, that itself is absolutely constitutionally problematic," Eddington said.

He also urged those who assume the technology won't affect them because they have nothing to hide to think twice.

"It doesn't matter whether you think you're doing nothing wrong," he said. "It only matters whether or not the cops or the prosecutors decide that you are doing something wrong. And then your life gets turned upside down. And in most cases, it's never the same after that."

Tates' 'novel' aliases

Accused rapist brothers Andrew and Tristan Tate kept multiple passports under different aliases to travel abroad — including one name ripped from a James Bond novel.

Tristan Tate had a Mexican passport with his photograph and date of birth, but under "Vladimir Scorpius" — the name of the main villain in the 007 spy novel "Scorpius," according to court documents against the misogynist influencers facing dozens of charges for rape and sex trafficking.

Tristan also posted an online video of himself on a ship declaring "I'm Vladimir Scorpius" and registered a UK company called "Scorpius Ltd." in an apparent nod to the fictional arms dealer who appeared in the 1988 novel penned by John Gardner.

Andrew Tate, meanwhile, openly bragged on social media about having "8 lives . . . 8 licenses and passports," and evading authorities in multiple countries, according to the document.

The brothers are fighting extradition to the UK, where they face a combined total of 59 criminal charges there, including rape, sex trafficking and offenses related to indecent images of a child and extreme pornography. *Patrick Reilly*

Illegal in a hot 'meth'

A Russian national was busted hauling nearly 800 pounds of methamphetamine on a Louisiana interstate, which officials touted as "one of the largest" seizures in the state's history.

Anton Vitalyevich Rakov was pulled over Tuesday for a traffic stop in his 18-wheeler on I-12 in Denham Springs, about 20 miles outside Baton Rouge, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office said on Facebook.

Rakov, whom officials described as a "deportable Russian national," was arrested over his illegal status in the US, which led officials to search the semi-truck's trailer. *Richard Pollina*

KAROLINE LEAVITT
Press secretary steps down.

Leavitt leaving sparks guessing

WASHINGTON — White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt announced Wednesday that she's leaving her role — stunning many insiders who immediately began buzzing about who might replace her behind the briefing room lectern.

Journalists widely regarded Leavitt, 28, as an effective spokesperson for President Trump.

The New Hampshire native seemed so steady in the role that many thought she could serve throughout Trump's second term.

Leavitt cited an interest in spending more time raising her children — Niko, 2, and 3-month-old Vivi — and is expected to remain a close adviser to the president.

Sources within and close to the administration told The Post that early front-runners for the role are believed to include Alina Habba, the former acting US attorney for New Jersey, and Breitbart Washington bureau chief Matthew Boyle.

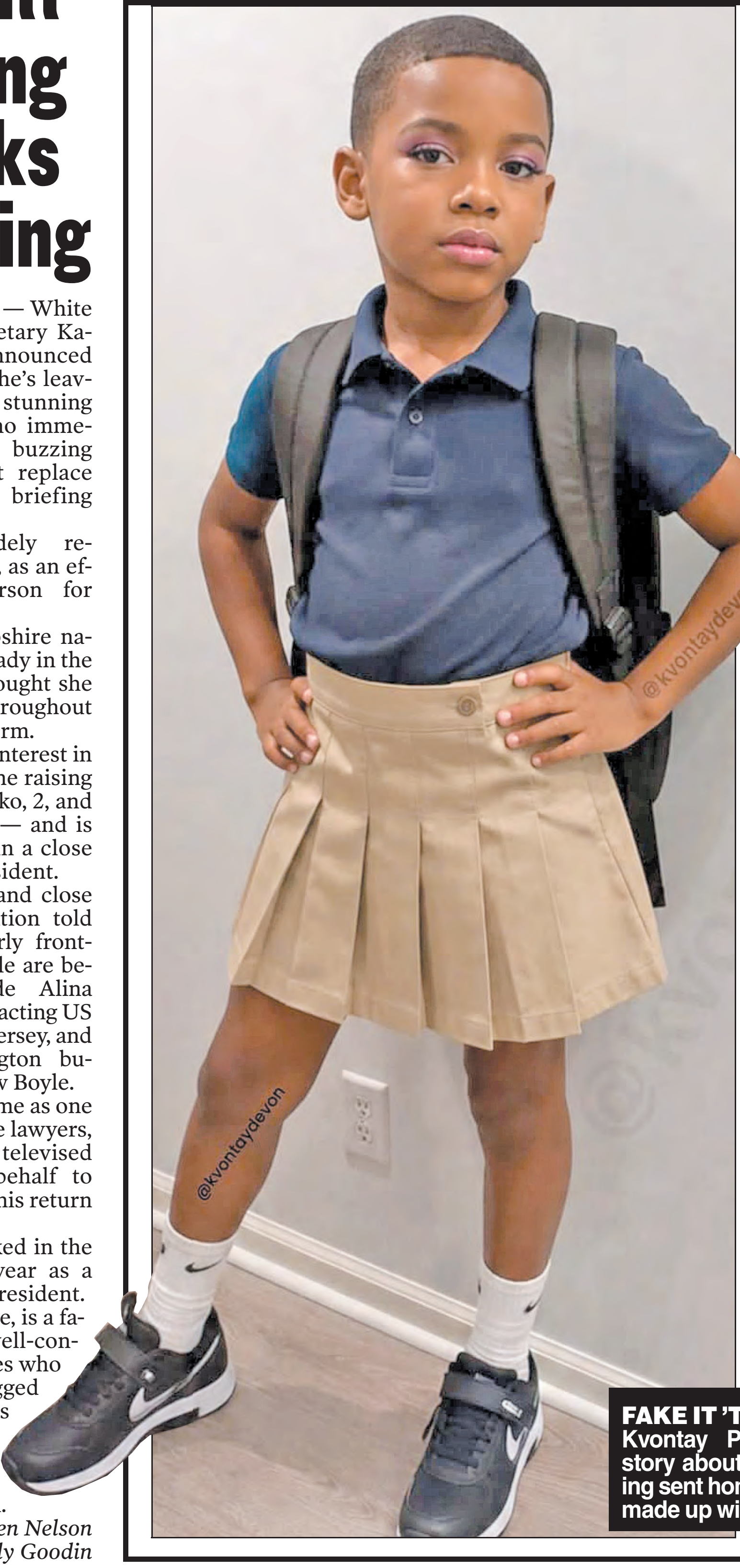
Habba gained fame as one of Trump's defense lawyers, giving passionate televised appeals on his behalf to journalists before his return to power.

She briefly worked in the West Wing last year as a counselor to the president.

Boyle, meanwhile, is a favorite among well-connected Trump allies who recognize the dogged Breitbart scribe's fiery but steady presence in the conservative media ecosystem.

Steven Nelson
and Emily Goodin

Rage baiter's AI(d) to skirt the truth



FAKE IT 'TIL HE MAKES IT: Kvontay Pringle's (right) viral story about a boy in a skirt being sent home from school was made up with the help of AI.

By ALLISON LAX

A story that went viral last week about a young boy who was sent home from school for wearing a skirt — a post that garnered 8.2 million views — was fake, made up just to make people angry.

"Kevin" had been AI-generated by Kvontay Devon Pringle, a 26-year-old Mississippi digital creator and semi-professional "rage bait" fiend.

Pringle admitted the viral vignette took just 10 minutes to make and post on his (ironically faceless) Facebook profile, which he keeps under the alias Zaya Velour.

"It's honestly wild to me that a story about a boy who doesn't even exist became this massive conversation online," Pringle told The Post. "I think it shows how advanced AI has gotten, and how hard it can be for the average person to tell the difference."

Cashing in on controversy

His fake post is making real money from Facebook's parent company, Meta: An estimated $2,800 and counting, according to Pringle.

Pringle represents a new breed of online "rage bait" creators who invent false scenarios for attention, and often for cash.

He runs five separate Facebook accounts, each with its own distinct flavor of content, which can make up to $17,000 per month, according to screenshots of invoices and accounts sent by Pringle to The Post.

Though Pringle claims to make all the written components himself, he often uses AI to generate photos for an additional (and often, very convincing) visual element.

Pringle calls himself a professional "comedian and storyteller" rather than a rage-bait creator, but he did admit to The Post he has always garnered a sense of satisfaction from evoking strong emotions on the internet.

A shy child, he began dabbling in content creation around age 14, acting out skits with his siblings on camera while his mom was at work. The activity made Pringle realize that he had a natural aptitude for creating dramatic incidents online.

His work went viral for the first time at age 15, when he wore a wig and clutched a fake bloody knife, then used the "pano" feature on his iPhone to create creepy selfies, scoring the teen his first Daily Mail headline.

Today, Pringle makes his living posting fake scenarios — like a woman claiming the cops arrived at her grandfather's home to arrest him, only to be handed an urn full of his ashes.

It's so profitable that Pringle has completely sidelined his former carpet-cleaning business.

Igniting online debate

"I am a public person but I keep my personal life private," Pringle told the Post. "I feel like storytelling on Facebook allows me the leverage to post things or situations that I've been through or know about, that I wouldn't post on my actual main pages with my face attached to them."

That includes the now-infamous skirt story, which he insisted was inspired in part from being bullied in school. (He recalled being called "gay" as a slur.)

Pringle combined those memories with stories he'd heard from his friends with transgender children, some of whom reported discrimination in their Southern school districts.

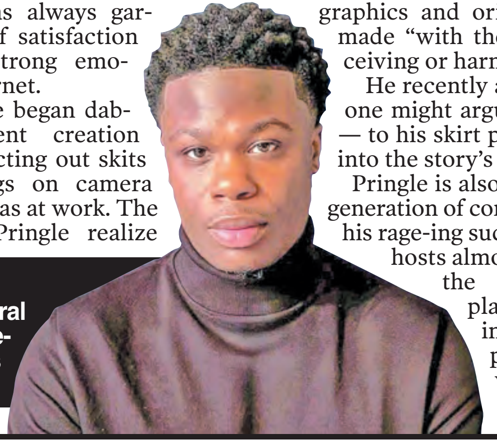
Regardless of the ethics of a fake post — especially one without an initial AI label on the content — he succeeded in his aim of igniting a raging online debate.

But what about the legions of followers who may feel duped by his expert-level baiting skills?

Pringle admitted he enjoys using the internet to "emotionally pull on people," but emphasized his content creation, which typically utilizes a mix of AI graphics and original text, is not made "with the intention of deceiving or harming people."

He recently added an AI tag — one might argue a week too late — to his skirt post to clue people into the story's invented origins.

Pringle is also sparking the next generation of content creators with his rage-ing success. He currently hosts almost 100 students on the digital education platform Skool, helping teach other aspiring creators his ways.



alax@nypost.com

Don't diss us for spicy reading tastes

Some like it hot!

ANDREA PALLADINO

I love porn — or so I'm told.

I'm crazy about a popular literary genre known in polite company as "romantasy" — or a blend of romance and fantasy.

Think slutty female dragonslayers, studly time-traveling Vikings, all the smut you can handle — these spicy titles are taking over, generating billions of dollars in sales even as critics roll their eyes

Last year, the romantasy genre brought in almost a billion dollars in sales, a 7% increase from 2024, according to data analytics firm Circana.

Literary professors and book-club snobs scoff at popular titles like "The Dragon's Bride" and "Stalked by the Kraken." They tell us these aren't real reading.

Sell that snobbery someplace else — I'll be too busy shamelessly flipping pages of the latest titles recommended on BookTok, a very specific, sometimes controversial TikTok community where influencers and users post reviews, recommendations and reactions to things they've just read.

Faves on BookTok

BookTok has become a genuine force in publishing. When a book takes off with this crowd, it tends to see a major sales boost — often climbing bestseller lists soon after.

In my free time, I scroll through social media videos where five-star reviews are often accompanied by five red pepper emojis, the digital signal for "spice level." It's a shorthand any BookToker understands — the more peppers, the raunchier the read.

No one is under any illusion — a lot of these recommendations are straight-up trash of the very best kind, that readers can't put down.

You'd think the more delicate types would love the fact that Americans are reading — according to a recent YouGov poll, precisely 40% of us read exactly zero books in 2025.

But no — apparently, what we're reading isn't high-minded enough, and we must all be shamed.

First of all, they're wrong to write these books off as porn. Your typical title will encompass so much more than sex scenes; one of the most popular styles is the "slow burn" romance — where the tension is allowed to build over chapters.

These books have plots, sometimes incredible ones, with rich character development. So what if the heroine has sex — she's not allowed?

I find myself thinking about the question posed by the protagonist, AJ, in Emma Brodie's novel "Into the Blue" — a hot-and-heavy title that went viral on BookTok after actress Reese Witherspoon picked it for her online book club.

"Can art not be cerebral and hot?"

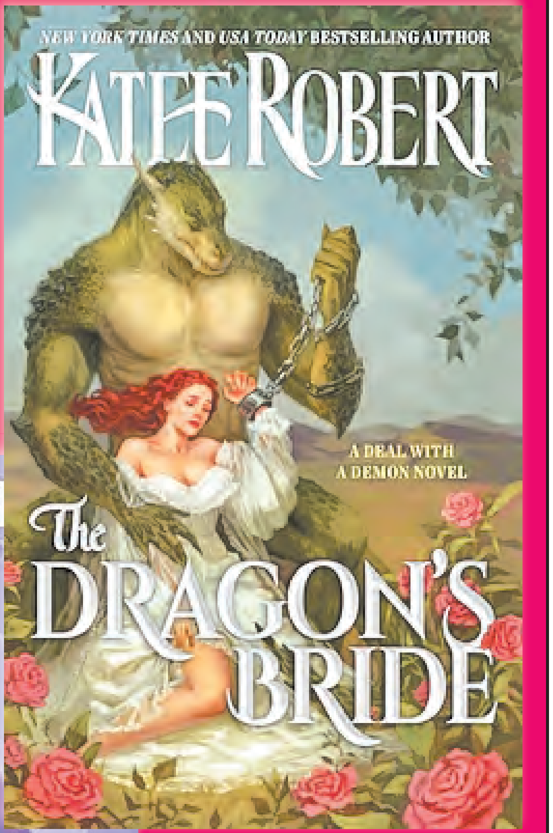
And honestly, these books have served as my gateway back into more challenging reads. I'm sure I'm not the only one. Hand someone who has never read before a copy of "Moby Dick," and they might never pick up a book again. Let people ease into the water.

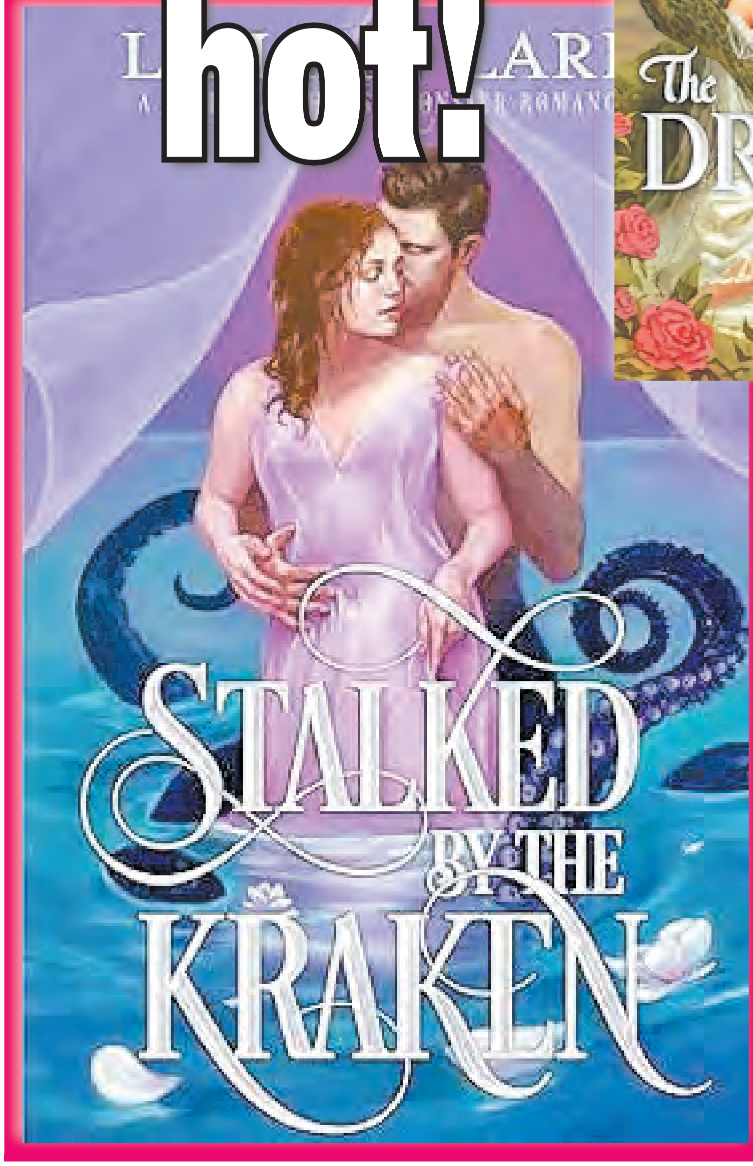
'Classic' battle

In Jane Austen's "Northanger Abbey," specifically Chapter 5, the author provided a "defense of the novel" at a time when fiction was considered a "base" form of entertainment compared to poetry or history.

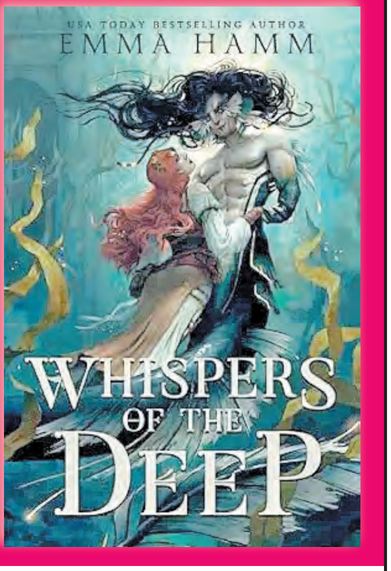
Austen's narrator suggests we ignore the groans of reviewers and support the heroine's love of fiction, claiming that novels are works "in which the greatest powers of the mind are displayed . . . the most thorough knowledge of human nature, and the loveliest effusions of wit and humor are conveyed to the world."

Fast-forward two centuries, and we are still fighting the same battle.


NEW YORK TIMES AND USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR
KATEE ROBERT
A DEAL WITH A DEMON NOVEL
The DRAGON'S BRIDE



Lillian Lark



NO XCUSES: Our columnist is among millions of readers wild about smutty romantasy books (pictured above, below and left) that, she says, should not be scorned by literary snobs.

No-abort ruling for surrogate

A surrogate who refused to abort her unborn baby despite the wishes of his biological parents has scored an early legal win in the case.

McKenna West, an Alaskan nurse, delivered a baby boy she named Gabriel in the Texas on Wednesday, her attorney Lincoln Wilson told The Dallas Morning News.

During her pregnancy, he was diagnosed with a severe but treatable heart condition, called hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS).

His parents Nausheen Gilkar and Omar Ahmed, from California, called on West to seek an abortion — but she traveled to Texas where she will be recognized as the birth mother under state law.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed a petition that urges doctors to give Gabriel "life-saving" care when he is born and stop him from being taken out of the state.

A court granted the petition Tuesday, saying, "Upon the child's live birth, medically indicated stabilizing and life-sustaining care shall be provided to the child pending further order of this Court."

Lawyers for Gilker and Ahmed have not commented on West's legal victory. *Chris Bradford*

'Drowning' hero hailed

A California college water polo star saved three girls from drowning in a Seattle lake when she noticed the youngsters struggling.

Lillie Vehling is being hailed a hero for her quick thinking, using her past lifeguard experience to extract the distressed swimmers from Lake Washington during the city's Seafair Weekend Festival, the largest boat, air and festival hosted between July 31 and Aug. 2.

"It was incredible having her at the right place at the right time," Seafair CEO Emily Cantrell said of Vehling. "What she did was extraordinary."

Nicholas McEntyre

MARIA NAREZ
Was on the lam in Mexico.

Ma bust in 1996 tot slay

A Texas mom accused of killing her 3-year-old daughter by throwing her against a wall has been busted in Mexico after nearly 30 years on the run.

Maria Narez, now 48, was accused of killing daughter Kasandra White in 1996 by shaking, beating and then throwing her in her Fort Worth home.

The then-teen mom was indicted by a grand jury the following year — but vanished after a judge lowered her bond to $25,000, according to court documents reviewed by Fox 4.

A warrant was issued for her arrest in 1997 after she fled across the border, where she hid out for almost 30 years, officials said.

“The DA’s Office never gave up on bringing Narez back to face the charge against her and answer for the death of her daughter,” the county’s District Attorney’s Office said.

Additional details were not immediately available.

Patrick Reilly

Copter crash kills 2 troops

Two US Army soldiers died when an Apache military helicopter attached to the service’s Fort Hood base crashed into a field in Texas on Wednesday, sparking a large grass fire, officials said.

The accident occurred in Bell County, about 60 miles north of the state capital of Austin, said Cliff Coleman, a spokesman with the Bell County Sheriff’s Office.

Fort Hood confirmed that an AH-64 attack helicopter crashed but the base withheld the names of the victims.

Reuters

MARCO ‘U.F.O.BIO’

Katie Miller Pod

DEEP-SPACE THINKING: Secretary of State Marco Rubio, with wife Jeannette (right), tells podcaster Katie Miller of efforts to reveal the truth about UFOs.

‘Truth is there,’ and Team Trump will bare it

By EMILY GOODIN

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Marco Rubio believes the truth is out there about UFOs, and the Trump administration will find it, Rubio revealed to Katie Miller for her podcast.

In an hourlong, wide-ranging interview along with wife Jeanette, Rubio touched on everything from his MAHA diet aversion, concerns a White House staffer was dead on Air Force One and his belief in UFOs flying over military bases.

Rubio said he takes UFO sightings seriously and that the government needs to find out “what’s flying over our airspace.”

“I don’t know what it is, but there are things flying over our military installations and they’re not ours, and we should look into this, be serious about it,” he said.

He was clear he doesn’t believe there was some kind of conspiracy at work but said “we should know what’s flying over our airspace.”

There have long been reports about Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena over US military bases, including a recent one about a 100-foot black triangular UFO over a Colorado military base. The Trump administration, led by Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, have been working to solve the UFO mystery.

Rubio said if they could find an answer, President Trump “would be all over that.”

“He’d be showing the pictures and the videos. But Stephen is on that case now, and I think he’s doing a great job with that,” he added.

Katie Miller revealed husband Stephen gives her no details because the information is classified.

Marco and Jeanette talked about their sleep habits, their work in the Trump administration and their family life.

In the interview, Rubio revealed some issues with his famous next-door neighbors on the military base in the DC area. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and wife Jennifer have two cats — compared to the Rubios two goldendoodles — and the pets can present challenges.

‘Interagency’ dog visit

The Rubios’ dogs often wander down the street to the Hegseth home.

“We have one that’s really smart,” Rubio said. “Knows how to open the door. So one day, I think Pete and his family were just sitting around watching television, and they keep their front door open because they have cats, [and] I never took Pete for a cat guy.”

“My dog just walked into their living room and looked around, realized ‘I’m in the wrong house,’ and turned around and walked out,” he added.

And Marco has issues with one Hegseth cat, who likes to hang out on Rubio’s porch.

“I’ll get home at night and the cat is just sitting on my porch and just looks at me,” Rubio said, adding the feline has an “attitude . . . The cat is a very arrogant cat,” he added, and has made itself at home.

“The cat just looks at you. It doesn’t even — usually a cat, you approach it and it takes off. This one does not take off running,” he noted.

The secretary of state also revealed he won’t try the popular MAHA diet that Vice President JD Vance and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. utilize. Part of Make America Healthy Again, it involves eating meat and fermented foods like sauerkraut.

“This is a crazy diet,” Rubio said, extolling his love of sugar. “This is not a sustainable thing.”

egoodin@nypost.com

*Demon*strably rare fish find under army base

Researchers were left stunned when they discovered a new “demon cavefish” in a highly studied cave beneath a US Army post in Alabama.

Scientists from the University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) uncovered a new genus of cavefish that is eyeless, colorless and faintly electric blue in life, according to a UAH press release from July.

The new genus, formally known as Demogorgonichthys arcanus, but aptly dubbed “demon cavefish,” was discovered in Bobcat Cave — under the US Army’s Redstone Arsenal.

Demogorgonichthys references the mythological underworld figure “Demogorgon” known through the game “Dungeons & Dragons” and the Netflix show “Stranger Things” — while arcanus means “hidden” or “secret,” according to UAH.

Combined, the scientific name reflects the cryptic species’ underground habitat and decades-long concealment in the cave system.

“This is one of the last places we’d have bet on it,” the study’s lead author Dr. Matthew L. Niemiller said.

Ella Morrison

$6M ‘gift’ from content partner

By SHANT SHAHRIGIAN

Forbes fired its top editor after learning he secretly raked in a cool $6 million from the founder of a company that does business with the publication, according to a report.

Chief Content Officer Randall Lane was booted after getting paid by RJ Shook of Shook Research, which collaborates with Forbes to create rankings of wealth advisers, The New York Times reported Wednesday.

It’s not known why Shook, who sold his company to a private equity firm, paid Lane, according to the report, which cited anonymous sources familiar with Lane’s work and departure.

The axed exec was the portrait of contrition over the payment, which he described as a “gift” without going into detail.

“I made a mistake, and I take responsibility for it,” Lane told the Times. “I should have disclosed the gift, and failing to was a serious error in judgment,” he added. “I deeply regret that, and I lost the job and team I love because of it. None of this changes how I feel about Forbes and the amazing people there.”

Mag rules violation

The roughly $6 million payment was a big no-no in Forbes land, which reportedly requires employees to ask for permission before doing outside business. It also bars them from personal gain from the mag’s business affairs, according to the Times, which cited an employee handbook.

A Forbes flack confirmed to the Times Lane’s departure but was mum on the payment. Shook declined to comment to the newspaper.

Founded 109 years ago by Scottish journo BC Forbes, his eponymous publication has enjoyed moments of helping define the American zeitgeist — though the mag ain’t what it used to be, observers say. It was known in the last century for its Horatio Alger-like treatment of business titans such as Warren Buffett, projecting an image of prosperity and aspiration for the masses.

Shortly before Christmas last year, Forbes “gifted” dozens of contributors a big lump of coal, cutting ties with them in a move the bosses billed as ensuring the publication is “financially sound.”

‘Clickbait’

Recent years have seen Forbes publish clickbait-esque lists like “Best-In-State Top Next-Gen Wealth Advisers” and the “Top Wealth Management Teams — Private Wealth,” the Times noted. Many such items were reportedly co-productions of the mag and Shook Research.

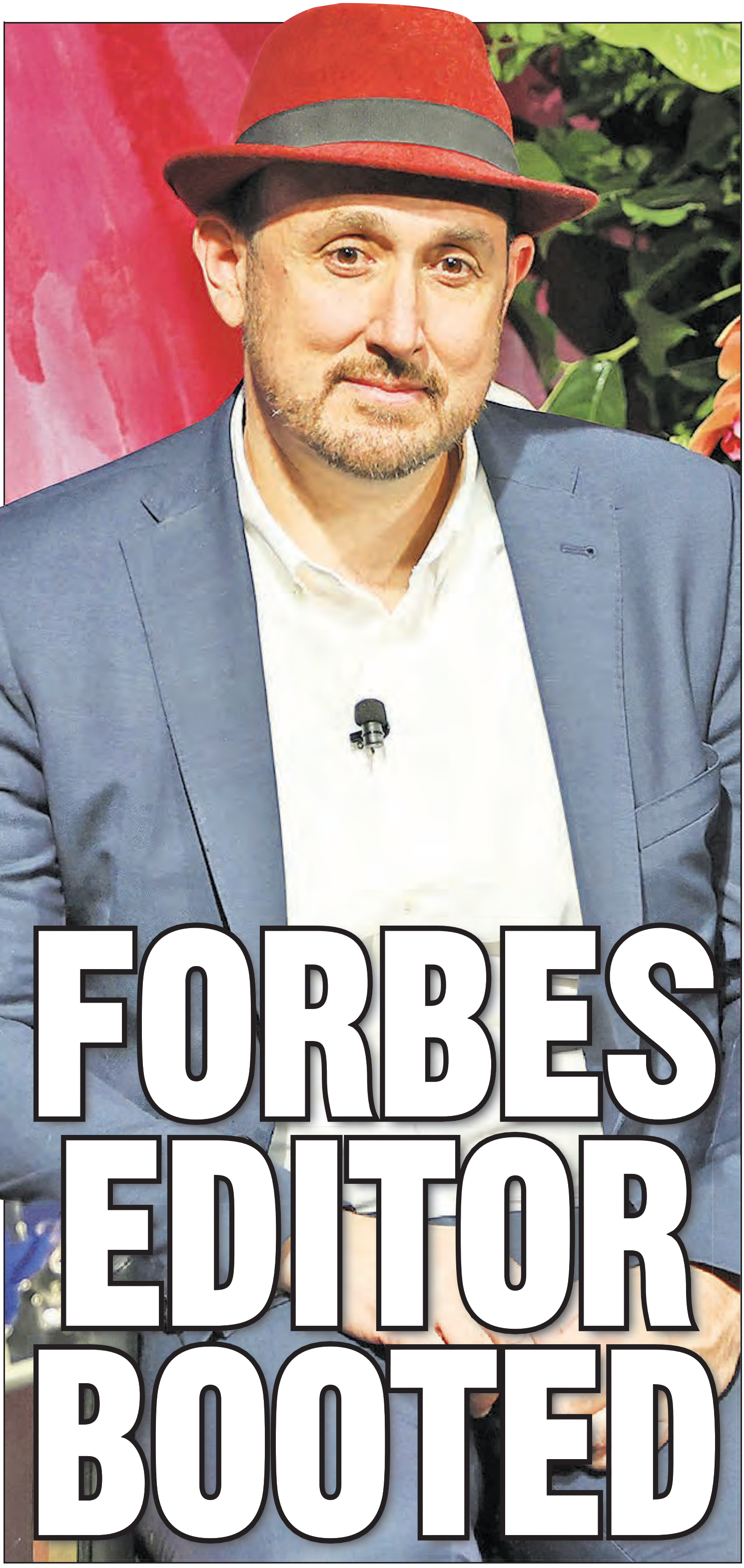
Lane and the researcher got along famously on a 2013 “humanitarian trip” to Liberia organized by Forbes, the Times reported, citing a person who knew about the friendship. Lane reportedly went on to serve as an “unofficial sounding board” for Shook — and the journo didn’t disclose the $6 million payment because he considered it a gift from a chum, the person added.

Private equity company PPC Enterprises reportedly cottoned onto the payment when it reviewed Shook Research emails after buying it, and the eggheads’ new management flagged the purported “gift.”

Lane, 58, owned up and was axed in July, according to the Times.

The Post has sought comment from Lane, Forbes and Shook Research.

FORBES EDITOR BOOTED



Getty Images

CONTRITE: Chief Content Officer Randall Lane said of taking $6M, “I should have disclosed the gift, and failing to was a serious error in judgment.”

JUSTIN WILLIAMS
Hacked ex to death.

Prison for slay & chop

A Manhattan man was sentenced to 26 years to life behind bars on Wednesday for chopping up his ex-girlfriend with a meat cleaver and living with her dismembered corpse in her Brooklyn apartment for a month.

Justin Williams, 27, learned his fate in Brooklyn Supreme Court for hacking his 22-year-old ex, D’Asia Johnson, to death inside her East New York apartment on Aug. 21, 2022.

Williams, of Harlem, stabbed Johnson several times in her torso and back — then dismembered her body with a meat cleaver and stashed her chopped-up remains in garbage bags inside the apartment for nearly a month, prosecutors said. He even used towels and cleaning products to mask the smell of her decomposing remains and left all the windows open in the apartment as her family desperately searched for her, cops said.

The killer, against whom his ex-girlfriend had an order of protection, used her public benefits to buy himself food. *Zoe Hussain*

Scalding suit below the belt

An oil and gas executive suffered “debilitating nerve damage” to his genitals after a cup of hot tea tumbled onto his lap from a wobbly table in Starbucks, according to a lawsuit.

Vladimir Podlipskiy, 63, was inside a Starbucks in San Diego for a meeting with his colleagues when he ordered the hot beverage on Aug. 28, 2024, according to a lawsuit filed in San Diego federal court last week.

During the meeting, an employee allegedly asked the oil and gas executive to move closer to a “wobbly” table while his scorching beverage was resting on it, the filing, first reported by The Independent, said.

The hot tea then spilled from the allegedly shaky table onto Podlipskiy’s lap, groin area, and genitals — causing “catastrophic burns and injuries,” the lawsuit charged.

The fateful spill has left Podlipskiy with severe burns, disfigurement and debilitating nerve damage to his genitals, the suit said.

Podlipskiy is now seeking unspecified general and special damages to be determined at trial, as well as legal fees and court costs.

Zoe Hussain

Rare trio of executions set

Three US states are set to execute inmates on the same day Thursday for the first time in nearly 16 years.

Tennessee, Alabama and Oklahoma plan to lethally inject three convicted murderers, one of whom is a child rapist, as the number of capital punishment executions in the country has risen sharply in recent years.

The rare scheduling coincidence is likely linked to an increase in executions driven by a handful of states, said Robin Maher, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center.

“You look at the country as a whole, you’ve just got this little pocket of five or six states that are using the death penalty, executing people, and a small number of states that are still imposing new death sentences,” said Maher.

Last year, 11 US states executed a total of 47 people — more than four times that of 2021 and the most since 2009, according to data.

The last time three executions were held on the same day was Jan. 7, 2010, when Louisiana, Ohio and Texas put convicts to death.

There have been 19 executions so far in 2026 in four states. *Natalie O’Neill*
With Wires

Post Weather Report

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Thursday

Today: Sunshine and some clouds. High 82 to 88.

Tonight: Partly cloudy. Low 68 to 74.

Friday

Tomorrow: Less humid with sun and some clouds. High 81 to 87.

Tomorrow night: Partly cloudy. Low 62 to 68.

Saturday

Mostly sunny. High 78 to 84.

Evening
Mainly clear. Low 65 to 71.

Sunday

More humid. High 79 to 85.

Evening
Showers/t-storms. Low 68 to 74.

Almanac

YESTERDAY'S CONDITIONS AT CENTRAL PARK THROUGH 6PM

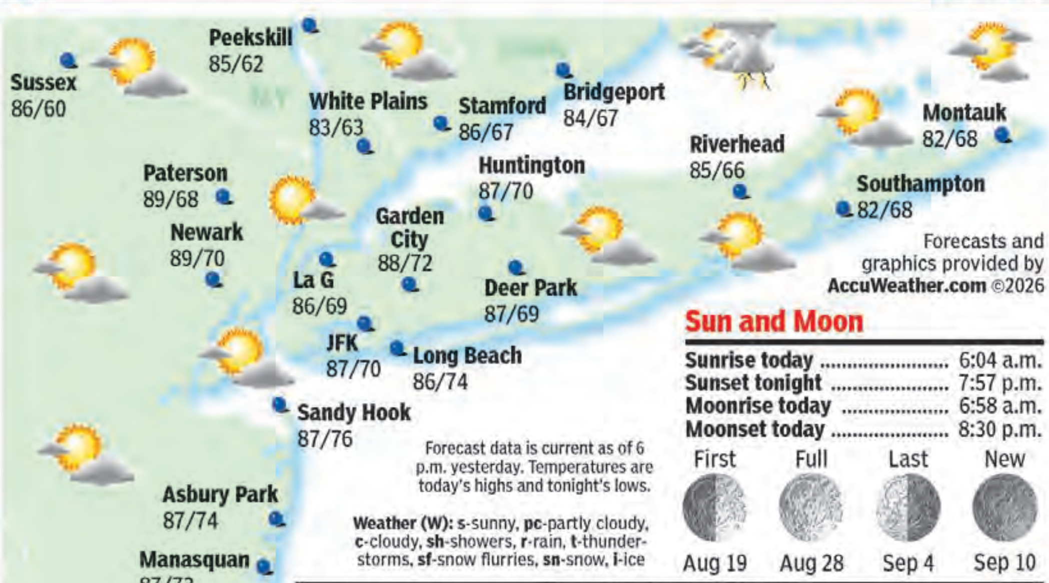
Temperature
High: 84, Low: 71, Mean: 78

Departure from Normal
Yesterday: +1 degrees

Precipitation
Yesterday: 0.00", Month: 3.24",
Year: 25.95", Normal year to date: 30.17"

Cooling Degree days yesterday 13
Total for the month (normal) 167 (145)
Total since Jan. 1 (normal) 927 (846)
Last year to date 912
Heat Index (at noon yest.) 81
UV index (for Thu.) .... 8 (Very High)
Humidity (at noon) 48%

AIR QUALITY
Pollen: Low Predominant pollen: Trees, Weeds, Grasses
AQI rating: (for Thu.) .... Moderate


Sussex
86/60
Peekskill
85/62
White Plains
83/63
Stamford
86/67
Bridgeport
84/67
Riverhead
85/66
Montauk
82/68
Paterson
89/68
Newark
89/70
Garden City
88/72
Huntington
87/70
Southampton
82/68
La G
86/69
Deer Park
87/69
JFK
87/70
Long Beach
86/74
Sandy Hook
87/76
Asbury Park
87/74
Manasquan
87/73
Toms River
89/69
Long Beach
86/73
Atlantic City
90/67
Ocean City
90/72

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather.com** ©2026

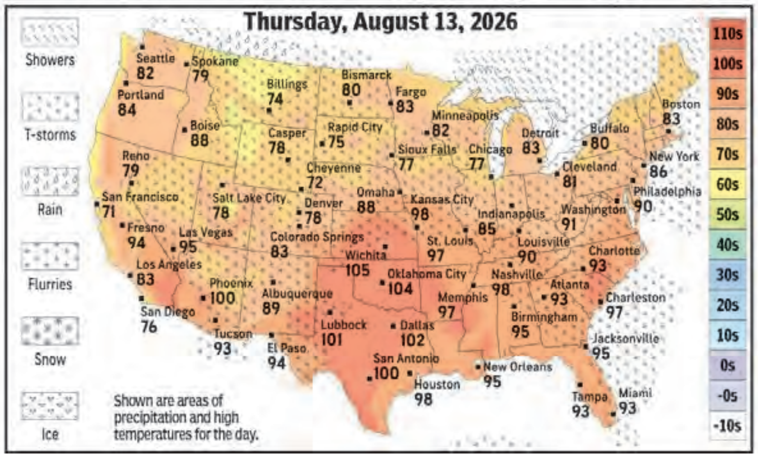
Forecast data is current as of 6 p.m. yesterday. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **r**-rain, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today .... 6:04 a.m.
Sunset tonight .... 7:57 p.m.
Moonrise today .... 6:58 a.m.
Moonset today .... 8:30 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
Aug 19	Aug 28	Sep 4	Sep 10


Thursday, August 13, 2026
Showers
T-storms
Rain
Flurries
Snow
Ice
110s
100s
90s
80s
70s
60s
50s
40s
30s
20s
10s
0s
-0s
-10s
Seattle 82
Spokane 79
Portland 84
Billings 74
Bismarck 80
Fargo 83
Boise 88
Casper 78
Rapid City 75
Minneapolis 82
Boston 83
Reno 79
Sioux Falls 77
Chicago 77
Detroit 83
Buffalo 80
New York 86
Cheyenne 72
Cleveland 81
San Francisco 71
Salt Lake City 78
Denver 78
Omaha 88
Kansas City 98
Indianapolis 85
Washington 91
Philadelphia 90
Fresno 94
Las Vegas 95
Colorado Springs 83
Wichita 105
St. Louis 97
Louisville 90
Charlotte 93
Los Angeles 83
Phoenix 100
Albuquerque 89
Oklahoma City 104
Nashville 98
Atlanta 93
Memphis 97
Charleston 97
San Diego 76
Lubbock 101
Dallas 102
Birmingham 95
Tucson 93
El Paso 94
San Antonio 100
Houston 98
New Orleans 95
Jacksonville 95
Tampa 93
Miami 93
Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.

New York Tides	TODAY		TOMORROW	
High Tide for	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
Coney Island	8:52a	9:07p	9:41a	9:54p
Fire Island	8:50a	9:17p	9:38a	10:01p
Hempstead	12:14a	12:45p	1:02a	1:29p
Huntington	12:03a	12:34p	12:53a	1:20p
Jones Inlet	8:36a	8:51p	9:25a	9:38p
Montauk Point	9:51a	10:16p	10:41a	11:03p
Port Washington	12:23a	12:54p	1:11a	1:37p
Sandy Hook	8:56a	9:11p	9:45a	9:58p

Regional cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Albany	81/59/t	79/57/pc
Danbury	83/60/pc	81/57/pc
Glens Falls	80/54/t	78/51/pc
Gr Barrington	80/59/t	81/53/pc
Kingston	85/61/t	84/56/pc
Liberty	80/59/t	80/52/pc
Monticello	80/56/t	77/54/pc
Newburgh	86/61/pc	84/57/pc
Poughkeepsie	84/60/t	84/57/pc
Saratoga Springs	82/58/t	82/54/pc
Stroudsburg	87/60/pc	85/57/pc
Torrington	83/61/t	81/55/pc
Syracuse	80/60/t	78/55/pc

World cities	TODAY	TOMORROW
Athens	92/76/s	89/74/s
Baghdad	120/88/s	119/91/s
Beijing	86/70/sh	90/70/s
Berlin	82/58/s	91/62/s
Cairo	99/79/pc	99/79/pc
Dublin	80/60/sh	71/54/c
Geneva	94/65/s	91/64/t
Hong Kong	93/83/t	88/82/r
Jerusalem	87/72/s	86/70/s
Kabul	92/70/pc	93/68/pc
London	97/67/s	92/64/s
Madrid	103/75/s	101/73/s
Mexico City	77/57/r	78/58/r
Montreal	77/57/t	76/57/pc
Moscow	60/47/r	63/46/r
Paris	99/72/s	101/70/t
Rio de Janeiro	81/71/s	77/70/s
Rome	96/72/s	94/72/s
Sydney	67/48/s	67/53/s
Tokyo	83/73/sh	82/74/r

Sally Brompton Daily Horoscope

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT YOURSELF AND WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS AT SALLYBROMPTON.COM

♌ LEO
(July 24-Aug. 23)

You seem to be flavor of the month with just about everyone, and if you are smart, you will make good use of that popularity to move up in the world. Even your rivals can see you are streets ahead of them when it comes to big ideas.

♍ VIRGO
(Aug. 24-Sept. 23)

If someone offers you something you have long desired today, try not to be suspicious about it. With your ruler Mercury linked nicely to values planet Venus, there is every reason to believe that the offer is on the level. Maybe they just like you!

♎ LIBRA
(Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

No matter how dull life may have been in recent weeks, you can tell that things are picking up nicely. Do whatever takes your fancy today and don't waste time wondering if it is worth the time and the effort — because it most certainly is!

♏ SCORPIO
(Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Cosmic activity in the area of your chart that governs how you approach the world at large is encouraging you to throw caution to the wind and showcase what you can do. Now is the time to exploit your talents, not hide them away.

♐ SAGITTARIUS
(Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

You may not be much for planning ahead but that's OK because the universe is nudging you in the right direction and all you have to do is go with the cosmic flow. The next few days will see you moving ahead in leaps and bounds.

♑ CAPRICORN
(Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

The more others say you are chasing a lost cause, the harder you will run after it. Something deep inside you knows that if you keep moving, you will eventually catch up with it, and that lost cause will become a cause for celebration.

♒ AQUARIUS
(Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

What you need to remember today is that not everyone shares your zany sense of humor. What makes you laugh may leave others cold, so don't be surprised if you are the only one who sees the funny side of a tense situation.

♓ PISCES
(Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

If you make an effort to draw up a blueprint for long-term success, it will pay off many times over between now and the end of the year. Your intuition is important, of course, but a well-defined plan will keep you on course for greatness.

♈ ARIES
(March 21-April 20)

Happy days are here again — and how! Yesterday's solar eclipse, alongside Jupiter and Mercury in the most dynamic area of your chart, makes this the perfect time to get out into the world and have some fun. So what are you waiting for?

♉ TAURUS
(April 21-May 21)

You appear to be clinging on to something you no longer need, and until you are prepared to let it go, you won't be able to move ahead with your long-term plans. What you did yesterday no longer matters, so draw a line under the past.

♊ GEMINI
(May 22-June 21)

Today's link between your ruling planet Mercury and Venus in its own sign of Libra will help you find your voice and make a big and beautiful noise. You may not realize it yet, but you have something important to say to the world.

♋ CANCER
(June 22-July 23)

Cosmic activity in the main financial area of your chart will give you the edge when it comes to dealing with people who don't share your ethical approach to money matters. Stick to the rules and remind yourself often that cheats never prosper.

BIRTHDAY THURSDAY

Venus and Mercury are well placed on your birthday, which means you will find it easy to win friends and influence people across all walks of life. Start each day with a smile and end each day knowing you have done your very best.

Quake baby found in Colombia

MIRACLE RUBBLE RESCUE

By CHRIS NESI

Rescuers desperately searching for survivors in the wreckage left by the strongest earthquake to hit Colombia in over a decade miraculously found a baby beneath the rubble and pulled the child to safety.

Dramatic footage shows several searchers encircling a recess underneath a collapsed building and carefully lifting up debris, revealing a dust-covered man cradling a baby in his arms.

The rescuers then gingerly took the tiny infant from the man and lifted him to safety.

Moments earlier, one of the men, Brian Osorio Zuluaga, had left his office in Cali and was trying to quickly make it home on his motorbike, but was forced to stop by the collapse of the destroyed building, La Torres del Limonar, a five-story apartment complex.

'Yes, I'm here'

As he approached the rubble, he told CNN he heard the faintest of sounds rising from within, and called out into the darkness.

"Yes, I'm here. I'm with a baby," a man replied.

Zuluaga and the other men quickly worked to clear the debris blocking access to the man and child, but progress was halted when they encountered a large concrete slab that seemed too heavy to move.

"On the first attempt, we couldn't lift it," he told the outlet. But then, "we all lifted together — one, two, three, up."

Several of the men propped up the slab while others focused on clearing a safe path to the baby, who appeared to be in rough shape.

"You can see the baby's little head there, which, at the time, looked sort of purplish because he couldn't breathe," Osorio said.

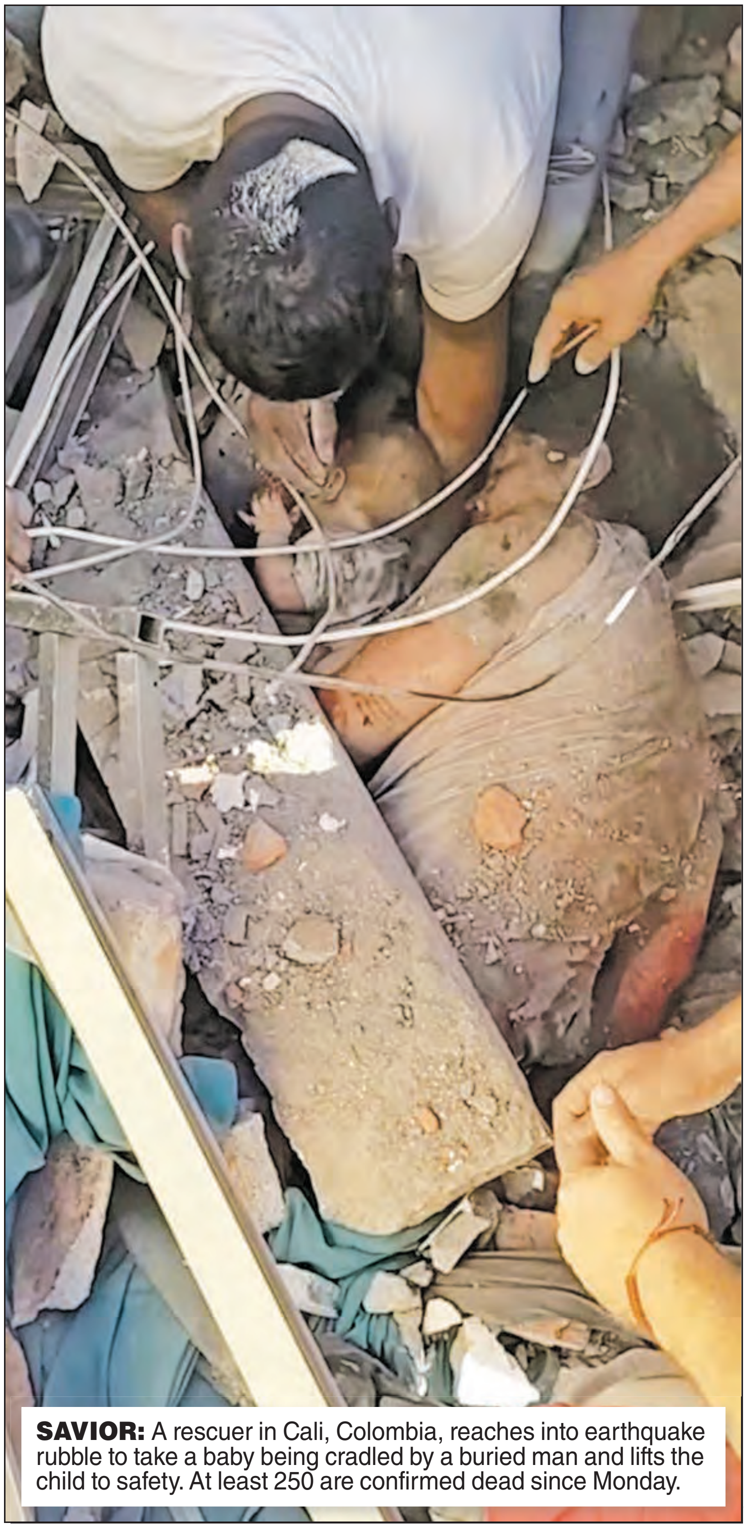
"Once we started removing the rubble, the baby began to . . . breathe, and his color started to come back."

Osario said he was handed the baby boy and passed him to a police officer, who took him away in an ambulance as the volunteers pressed on to rescue the trapped man.

The 7.4-magnitude quake struck western Colombia on Monday, leaving devastation in its wake as volunteers raced to rescue as many victims as possible.

At least 250 people are dead and more than 2,500 injured, with as many as 4,000 still missing.

With Wires



SAVIOR: A rescuer in Cali, Colombia, reaches into earthquake rubble to take a baby being cradled by a buried man and lifts the child to safety. At least 250 are confirmed dead since Monday.

Facebook / Brian Osorio Zuluaga

Coney Is. BBQ charges

Two suspected gunmen are facing 88 charges for shooting up a July Fourth barbecue in Coney Island — injuring eight people, including four children, and killing a puppy, prosecutors announced Wednesday.

Robert Smith and Kevin Blunt, both 44, were indicted this month on the slew of charges, including attempted murder and assault, over the rampage that turned a Brooklyn family celebration into a nightmare.

"These defendants are allegedly responsible for unleashing a barrage of gunfire into a courtyard packed with families celebrating the Fourth of July," Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez said.

"The fact that no person was killed is extraordinary, but it does not diminish the alleged recklessness and brutality of this attack," Gonzalez added.

Blunt was formally arraigned on the indictment on Aug. 3; Smith was arraigned on Wednesday.

When Smith's gun appeared to jam after he attempted to fire into the barbecue, Blunt allegedly helped clear it, allowing Smith to fire approximately 15 shots into the crowd, prosecutors said.

Eight family members sustained gunshot wounds, including four minors — boys aged 6, 7, 12 and 14 — and four adults, aged 21, 25, 33 and 37. The 21-year-old woman was initially reported in critical condition, while the other seven victims were stabilized.

Law enforcement sources suspect it was gang-related.

Daniel Cody

Dems' real angst over AI ads

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman told Democrats to get over it after party leaders filed a complaint against him for a series of AI campaign ads.

Blakeman said he'd continue to use artificial intelligence despite state Democratic Party chairman Jay Jacobs' Board of Elections complaint accusing the GOP candidate of violating state law by not disclosing the tech's use in some ads.

"Everybody knows it's AI, and it's funny — so what's your problem? Get a life," Blakeman, the Nassau County executive, said during a campaign stop Monday in Flushing, Queens.

"I don't know what [the Democrats'] problem is — they're trying to cheat — I guess because it's so effective," Blakeman said of his ads, which often depict Gov. Hochul and Mayor Mamdani in outrageous scenarios.

Recent ads include videos showing an AI Hochul appearing to rob a bank, playing poker and gambling taxpayer funds with Mamdani.

Brandon Cruz

25-to-life for drunken killer

A drunken driver who plowed into a Long Island nail salon at 78 mph, killing an off-duty NYPD cop and three other people was sentenced Wednesday to 25-years-to-life in prison.

Steven Schwally, 66, was found guilty last month of four counts of second-degree murder and a slew of other charges after the deadly carnage at Hawaii Nail & Spa salon in Deer Park in June 2024.

Schwally downed 18 beers and Long Island iced teas before jumping behind the wheel of his Chevrolet Traverse and barreling into the salon in a crash that killed off-duty NYPD officer Emilia Rennhack, 30, who was getting a manicure for a wedding, as well as salon owner Jian Chai Chen, 37, and employees Yan Xu, 41, and Mei Zi Zhang, 50.

He injured nine others, including a 12-year-old girl.

"Steven Schwally drank until his blood-alcohol content was more than twice the legal limit," Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney said.

Brandon Cruz

The Taylor Tax

Dems go after Swift's wealth — and yours

taylorswift/Instagram

Pretty penny: Swift (c.) and a gaggle of pals lounged on the lawn of her Rhode Island beach manse in 2023 — now she'll pay for the privilege.

BETSY McCAUGHEY

TAYLOR Swift is enemy No.1 to cash-grabbing Democrats in Rhode Island: They've named their state's new vacation-home property tax after her. They and other radical leftists across the country claim that by attacking the rich, including celebs like Swift, they're saving democracy.

Don't be fooled. Their new forms of taxation — including wealth taxes, mansion taxes and second-home taxes — are fueled by jealousy and hatred for free markets, the work ethic and everything American. And while Mayor Mamdani's pied-à-terre tax has been stalled in court, his "enemies list" of ordinary homeowners is evidence that you're the next target.

You may not consider yourself "rich," but if you live in a blue state, these new forms of taxation will eventually hit you, too. After all, they have a way of expanding: New York's state Legislature is already considering a plan to impose Gotham's pied-à-terre tax statewide, according to Republican state Sen. George Borrello.

Swift shelled out $17.75 million for her oceanfront Watch Hill, RI, spread in 2013 — but the tax, which went into effect two weeks ago, is slapped on any vacation home worth over $1 million and occupied less than half the year. Similar tax-the-rich schemes are building steam elsewhere — and they'll continue until "not a single state . . . is a safe haven," the Democratic Socialists of America vowed in June.

Connecticut Democrats are ramming through its first-ever statewide property tax — an annual "mansion: levy on homes valued at over $3 million, even if they're primary homes. That's on top of sky-high local property taxes.

And the state legislature's veto-proof Democratic majority likely won't stop with the priciest homes: Connecticut's first income tax, imposed in 1991, was supposed to be temporary. Three decades later, it's still in effect — and it's expanded from a flat rate to seven ever-higher brackets.

Washington, DC, is also proposing a "mansion tax" on high-value residences — all those valued at more than $2.5 million. Three tiny, but tony, neighborhoods will bear the brunt: Georgetown, Kalorama and Massachusetts Avenue Heights.

Plenty of wealthy politicians will be hit, but unfortunately not Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, vocal advocates for wealth taxes. They don't live there.

Mansion taxes are proxies for wealth taxes, but in November Californians will vote on the real thing — the first US tax on total net worth. Proposition 40, is billed as a "one-time" 5% tax on all forms of wealth, from homes and yachts to stocks, bonds and ownership interests in private companies — where the real money is.

Its backers say 90% of the revenue will go to support health-care services for Californians, and health-care unions are its biggest supporters. Don't buy the "one-time" claim; once health-care services are funded, does anyone really believe they'll turn the spigot off?

The state Democratic Party endorses the tax, but not presidential wannabe Gov. Gavin Newsom. He's pivoted instead to a *national* wealth tax, warning that otherwise more California billionaires will follow Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Google co-founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin, and head for the exits.

Newsom joins a chorus of lefties making the preposterous argument that the existence of billionaires threatens democracy. Nonsense: Mike Bloomberg blew through hundreds of millions of dollars of his own money seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020 — and won only in American Samoa.

And have they forgotten the $2 billion Kamala Harris burned in her failed White House run? Cash doesn't guarantee electoral success.

But democracy *is* threatened by dire poverty: Hungry people will succumb more easily to the promises of a dictator. And poverty in the United States is half what it was in 1959, when the US Census began measuring it.

The ideologues calling for wealth taxes aren't telling you the truth — wealth taxes are economy killers, and workers are the victims.

Only 2.7% of the typical billionaire's wealth is in jewels, yachts, artwork, homes and other tangible luxuries; almost all of it is in business assets — stock and ownership interests that provide the capital for businesses to buy the efficient trucks, faster computers and sophisticated equipment that increase worker productivity. As Cato economists Adam Michel and Chris Edwards warn, taxing wealth takes capital out of these companies, limiting worker productivity gains and the growth in future wages. Ouch!

Wake up, America: You, too, are in the "Tax the Rich" crosshairs. Call out these left-wing demagogues for their lies. In Taylor Swift's words, be "Fearless."

FAST TAKES

From the left: Bogus 'Beer Test' Is Back

Covering Dan Osbourne's independent Senate run in Nebraska, The New York Times just revived the "massively overused campaign reporting clichéd" beer test — is this "a guy you'd like to have a beer with"?, smirks Racket News' Matt Taibbi. "From Bush-Gore through the 2016 cycle it was nearly impossible to escape 'beer test' coverage," as it was "a way for campaign reporters to flex" as "they were usually the chief arbiters of which candidate was beer-i-er than the next." But the test "mainly vanished" once beer became "a stand-in for unredeeming deplorable values": Donald Trump was the clear "beer" guy in 2016. But now it's back "thanks to an odd edge case in which Democrats can root for an Independent without endorsing heteronormative leisure tendencies." Oy: "Man is this country weird sometimes."

Health beat: China Set To Weaponize Biotech

More than 40% "of the key building blocks for American medicines are sourced solely in China," warns Bethany McLean at The Free Press. And the People's Republic "now has almost as large a pipeline of experimental treatments as the U.S.," per a study in The Journal of the American Medical Association. The "scariest prospect": "a Chinese takeover of the biotech industry so pervasive that it's not inconceivable" Americans could become "dependent on China for their medicine," with "catastrophic" consequences, as some in the industry insist it's only a matter of time before China weaponizes biotech. Yes, "any action the U.S. takes will require some pain," whether for patients or Big Pharma profits. But "doing nothing" will only *appear* to cost nothing — "until it doesn't."

Faith beat: The Left's Forever War on Nuns

New York state is "locked in a legal fight" with the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne, whose Rosary Hill Home provides "free medical care to poor people with terminal cancer," sighs John J. Miller at The Wall Street Journal. For two years, the state Department of Health has threatened "fines, loss of their operating license and even imprisonment" if they "keep males out of the ladies' room or separate bedrooms by biological sex," or refuse to "recognize a 'right to consensual sexual relations,' including sex outside marriage." And now New York is demanding *four* orders of nuns "assist patients who wish to commit suicide." Argh! "The left's forever war on nuns" dates at least to Obama administration bid to make the Little Sisters of the Poor fund "birth control and abortion drugs, in violation of their Catholic faith," a "never-say-die crusade" that New York's attorney general still pursues.

Conservative: Progs' Global Unseriousness

Ro Khanna

Challenged "to offer a better path to peace than the one Israel took" after the Oct. 7 attacks, "galactically unserious" Rep. Ro Khanna claimed that "Israel could have negotiated a non-Hamas Gaza" if it "negotiated with Hamas," marvels Commentary's Seth Mandel, again proving that the left has "absolutely nothing to say" about avoiding wars because they've "put zero thought" in into it." Similarly, DSA co-chair Megan Romer argues" "We should be sending huge teams of diplomats . . . to get Russia off Ukraine's back," as if "double-super-negotiation" and "airdropping more pinstriped suits" would've convinced Russia to withdraw. Progressives treat global affairs as a "joke" and regions in conflict "as a sandbox to play around in" on the way to scoring political points.

Energy watch: Nixing 'Green Propaganda'

India and Indonesia, "comprising more than one-fifth of the world's population," are "dismissing the apocalyptic fantasy of the climate industrial complex" as they recognize that "hydrocarbons are still the future of energy," cheers Vijay Jayaraj in The Hill. After recent major blackouts, "Indonesia is rejecting green propaganda" and "India finds itself in the same boat," as nearly 80% of its electricity is coal-generated. They're planning "a massive expansion of energy trade," including India's "request for more Indonesian coal to feed a ravenous power grid." Safe to say, "no amount of U.N.-inspired fearmongering will deter the mission to secure affordable energy for the Indian populace."

— Compiled by The Post Editorial Board

NEW YORK POST
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Mamdani's Soaring Rents

Despite Mayor Mamdani's "rent freeze," the cost for New York apartments continues to soar — except it's not really "despite" at all: His policies either don't touch the problems, or make them worse.

The average rent of an open Manhattan unit just hit an eye-watering $6,655 a month, report industry pros, a 10% jump from last year. An average *studio* is now going for more than four grand; you'll have to plunk down more than $12,000 every first of the month if you want three bedrooms.

One major reason: Rent regulation insulates 1 million apartments — more than one quarter of the entire city's housing stock — from market pricing. Those tenants rarely leave, making open units more scarce, and so forcing up prices for the 1 million market-rate apartments. And the rent freeze (which actually benefits higher-income folks more that lower earners) only makes things worse.

Plus, when a longtime rent-stabilized tenant finally moves out, 2019 state "reforms" make it unaffordable for landlords to bring the unit up to code, so even *vacated* apartments can't get offered to new tenants.

All of this deepens the city's "rent inequities," with would-be newcomers facing the most ridiculous rents while the "haves" already here get an ever-better break.

Yes, barriers to new construction make the supply crisis worse, and Mamdani's *talking* about addressing those — but that means facing down other stale ideas and vested interests, so the going is beyond slow.

Indeed, the mayor's fellow progressives keep doubling down on stale ideas, such as the state's "Good Cause" eviction limits (which penalize good landlords and reward bad tenants) and the city FARE Act that tries to make landlords pay all brokers' fees, as if those were the root problem rather than a response to the market's insanity.

Mamdani's rent freeze only benefits people who already live here; he's done nothing to help those who want to come — which increasingly means only the very well off (highly paid, or with ample wealth) *can* move to New York. He's done nothing to change the recipe for atrophy that's destroying the city's middle class.

Wisconsin Was Just One Battle

Late Tuesday night, establishment Democrats finally exhaled after holding their collective breath as the polls proved to have badly overestimated the far-left's appeal in the Wisconsin governor's primary.

Thanksgiving-hating socialist Francesca Hong narrowly lost to David Crowley, showing the limits of the radical left's appeal in a Midwest swing state, as long as the normal Democrat has a modicum of charisma and organizational support.

Regular Dems also know the polls were about as badly off in last week's Michigan's Senate primary; far-lefty Abdul El-Sayed squeaked through because he *did* have far more charisma, and avoided the actual Democratic Socialist label.

Anti-Trump fury may carry him over the finish line in November, but the left is still furious at how far it's falling behind those polls: Pinko streamer Hasan Piker tweeted angrily of Hong's defeat: "Outlaw Thanksgiving and outlaw boomers."

What's now obvious is that those polls didn't capture the rural voters and urban blacks who aren't remotely sold on the left's agenda. To win, the extremists need low-turnout primaries in gentrifying urban districts in deep-blue states, or candidates with the dynamism to attract a broader coalition.

Then again, the left is still pulling the Democratic Party its way: The establishment is rushing to legitimize El-Sayed, and all too many candidates, for example, still don't dare speak common sense on issues like protecting women's spaces from males "identifying" as female.

That may not stop Democrats from winning back the House and even the Senate this fall, but it's going to limit their gains until they can start *reliably* defeating the left in their own primaries. And the lefties are learning, too: Don't expect them to put their future hopes on losers like Francesca Hong.

#DSA-So-White

By its own count, the New York City chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America is almost *twice* as white as Gotham overall. Were that any *other* outfit, the DSA would scream for emergency DEI measures.

Some 60% of the commie-lite crew are "people of pallor" vs. just 31% of the city, and the gap may well be worse: The DSA figure is only on self-reported info. Just about any photo of an actual DSA gathering suggests the serious membership is even whiter.

Voting data bear it out: City DSA candidates overperform with more affluent white voters in Democratic primaries, from Mayor Mamdani last year to Darializa Avila Chevalier, the carpetbagging Castroite who this year unseated Rep. Adriano Espaillat in large part by activating the gentrifier vote in his upper Manhattan district.

So Queens Borough President Donovan Richards had a point when he chided the DSA for "white supremacy": It *is* dominated by rich, whiny white kids running roughshod over the actual priorities of the marginalized people they claim to care about.

The DSA's "populist" appeal is all in its members' ideology-soaked heads: Even in deep-blue New York state, it only notches 30% support from all voters, per a Siena poll — and that plummets to 16% in the suburbs.

Democratic Socialism, in short, is the politics of the privileged — and its supporters' belief to the contrary, ironically, is just an epic bit of false consciousness.

letters@nypost.com

DSA Clowns Overcrowd Democrats' Circus Tent

THE ISSUE: Progressives distance themselves from unhinged "woke" comments made in 2020.

- The new left-wing mantra of a supposed shift from "Woke 1" to "Woke 2" is laughable: Nothing is changing in the overall goal to radicalize the Democratic Party and ultimately foist their agenda on the rest of the country ("Woke 2 Is Woke 1," Editorial, Aug. 11).

Wiping away outlandish social-media posts by sending them to "memory holes" while switching to softer language to convey the same ideas is the new model. Some may buy it, but I think most intelligent voters will recognize that Woke 2 is just Woke 1 wearing a different suit.

Peter W. Kelly
Hazlet, NJ

Abdul El-Sayed

- The Democratic Party is a big tent alright — a carnival tent, and the freaks are the main attraction: woke freaks, abolish ICE freaks and no-police-no-prison freaks. And where are the adults? They are busy emulating the freaks.

Barack Obama is pals with Abdul El-Sayed, as are AOC, Gruesome Gavin Newsom and Hamas' Hasan Piker. The Clintons are AWOL and leaders Sen. Chuck Schumer and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries are changing their diapers. Woke 2? It's the same as Woke 1, but with free eats as well.

Paul Bloustein
Cincinnati, Ohio

- Democrats are nominating socialist radicals as a response to President Trump's policies and his unpopular war in Iran. This will continue until Republicans have the guts to get rid of Trump et al.

He did exactly what he said he wasn't going to do and this is a result of his incompetence.

Edward Drossman
Manhattan

- It's an amazing thing to see the Dems kissing up to the DSA while it's trying to destroy them. Dems are so terrified of Trump, they will hand their own party over to communists.

Dems need to grow a pair and cut all ties to these morons before they reach the point of no return. They don't realize that once these morons take over, the Dems are the first ones they will come after.

Storm Destro
Bayonne, NJ

- Anyone who thinks that socialism is a good idea should just reflect on what happened during the pandemic: a prime example of what results in government control to an extreme. Look at how that worked out? We tried socialism once. It just doesn't work.

Michael Patracuolla
Bloomfield, NJ

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Kat's Wishy-Washy Tax Stance

THE ISSUE: Gov. Hochul distancing herself from Mayor Mamdani's pied-à-terre tax.

- Gov. Hochul's attempt to distance herself from New York City's proposed pied-à-terre tax deserves scrutiny ("Kat turns tail on pied-a-terre," Aug. 12).

This follows a familiar pattern: poorly conceived policy, public backlash — then a rebranding effort. From bail reform to congestion pricing, Hochul has too often marketed reversals and failures as achievements. Her earlier message that New Yorkers unhappy with conditions should leave the state was also tone-deaf — especially when declining revenues later made retaining residents and taxpayers urgent.

Her defining accomplishment has been allowing state spending to grow faster than inflation, revenues and many taxpayers' incomes.

Rep. Ritchie Torres refers to Hochul as "the new Joe Biden" but the phrase "a genius in the art of being wrong" seems more fitting.

Michael Mulhall
Moseley, Va.

- I keep hearing Democrats like Hochul say, "pay your fair share." No one can explain to me what your fair share is. What is the amount?

They want every person receiving social benefits to believe the rich are evil. Meanwhile, we have a mayor who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth saying he's fighting for you. Truth be told, he's only fighting for his power.

Philip Vallone, Ossining

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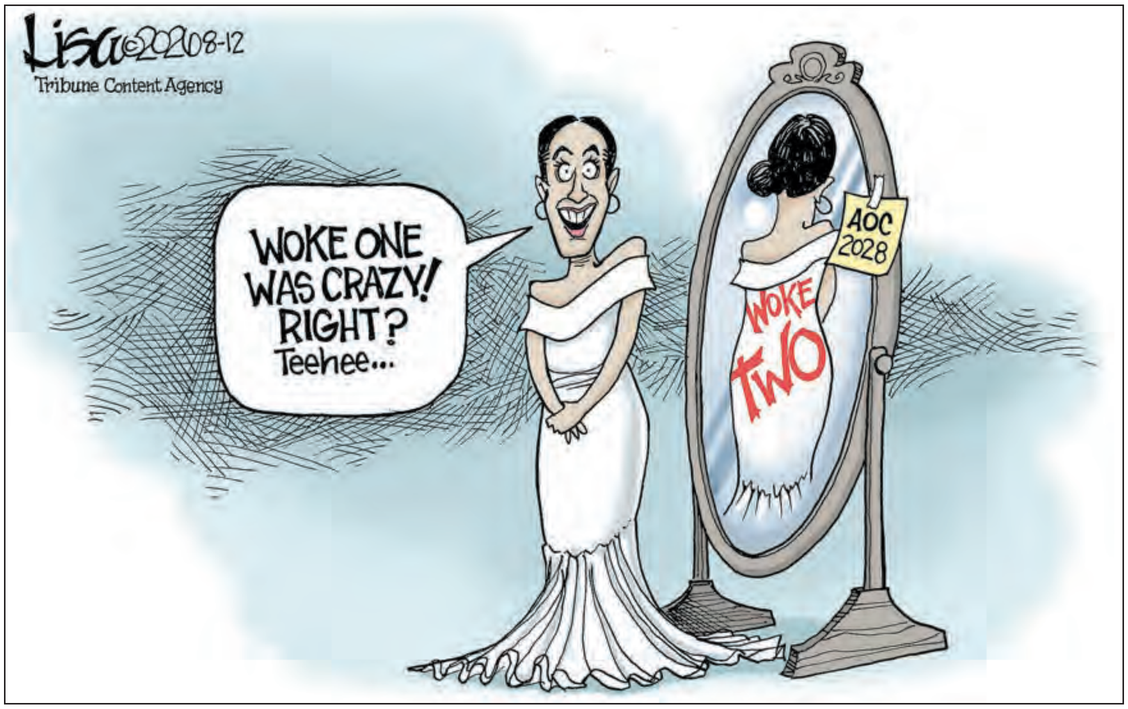

Woke 1 *Ruined Lives*

'WOKE 1 was crazy," grinned Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on Sunday, as she sought to brush off a question about ideas she endorsed very recently — like "defund the police." She's letting herself and her allies off far too easy.

The excesses of the toxic hyper-leftism that metastasized in so many American institutions — academia, media, sports, law, government, education, entertainment and the corporate world — were a form of illiberal authoritarianism that did deep damage to individuals and to the fabric of American society.

I know, because Woke 1 came for me. My crime? Advocating for meritocracy in New York City's public schools.

I was an attorney with the Legal Aid Society during Woke 1's peak in the summer of 2020. In my off-hours I was also involved in my children's public schools, and I'd recently been re-elected by fellow parents to sit on the local Community Education Council.

In that capacity I disagreed with Mayor Bill de Blasio's efforts to scrap the color-blind SHSAT, the single test used for admissions to NYC's specialized high schools, based on the specious claim that the test itself was racist — and I had the audacity to say so publicly. That's when the Black Attorneys of Legal Aid, a caucus of my former union, the Association of Legal Aid Attorneys, chased me out of my job for wrongspeak.

It's far easier to defend meritocracy in 2026, but in 2020 — the era AOC now wants us all to laugh about — it was career-ending. BALA published a statement declaring that a public defender "cannot oppose anti-racism and effectively represent Black and Brown people."

The group went on to say I had "no business having a career in public defense" and "we're ashamed that she works at the Legal Aid Society" — and my employer amplified the message by re-tweeting it.

That post is still up. A real knee-slapper, right, Congresswoman?

My public shaming served many purposes. The practitioners of Ibram X. Kendi–style "anti-racism" wanted me to lose my job: Check.

I was running for City Council at the time, and thanks to their accusations, I was constantly asked to answer for my "racist" education positions: Check.

MAUD MARON

Even more important, they wanted to make sure everyone else at the Legal Aid Society got the message. Years later, a former colleague wrote to tell me he was ashamed of his own silence during that period, but had feared losing his job if h e spoke up: Check.

Woke 1 was vicious, effective and widespread — and it didn't just silence public-school parents like me who value great education. Academics were fired for merely expressing a verboten viewpoint about climate change. Suggesting that COVID-19 originated in a lab, or that natural immunity negated the need for a vaccine, was sneered at — and cost more than 1,000 New York City workers their jobs.

Reporting that asked whether the surge in youth trans identification might reflect a social contagion made you an immediate outcast in most mainstream media. Questioning land acknowledgments or the pronouns in someone's bio invited professional peril for even the most apolitical.

And in a shocking number of cases, totally innocuous behaviors — mispronouncing words, making a misconstrued hand gesture or singing along to a popular song in a way that offended the wokerati — got people fired, shamed or rejected from schools. All while AOC and other so-called progressives looked the other way.

Today colleges and universities that abandoned the SAT with a bent knee to Woke 1 pieties are bringing it back — because, they can now acknowledge, the test is an effective mechanism to find and sort prospective students. DEI consultants are looking for different work as the gigs dry up. Detransitioners are filing lawsuits, and professional athletes and sports associations are suddenly remembering — and saying out loud — that people can't change their sex.

AOC wants us to forget and forgive what she calls the "crazy" of "Woke 1" so she can pursue a political promotion without having to answer for the harm done, the careers ruined, the lives upended and the deep societal rifts caused by Woke 1's merciless demand: your acquiescence or your silence.

I want us never to forget the truth about Woke 1. Instead, we must accurately assess it, catalogue the damage it did, demand accountability from those who led the charge — and build a society that doesn't cave so quickly when it's time to say something true but displeasing to the powerful.

NY Mag's Message: Jews Not Welcome

NEW York magazine this week dubbed our town "Habibi City" to mark the rising prominence of Middle Easterners and Muslim immigrants united by fun, frolic — and a consuming hatred of Israel and Jews.

It's a formulation,harking back to 1966, when newly elected Mayor John Lindsay declared New York to be "Fun City." Yes, such fun! Lindsay's two terms drove NYC into civil and budgetary collapse.

A crime tsunami rotted neighborhoods across the five boroughs, feckless budgetary policies emptied the city's coffers, and the population of Lindsay's "Fun City" declined by half a million people. Facing a government that didn't seem to care what happened to them, much of the middle class voted with their feet.

JOHN PODHORETZ

Something similar may happen in Habibi City, but this time the effort to make life unbearable for some New Yorkers is entirely intentional — and aimed at a specific minority. Lindsay was incompetent, but he certainly didn't want taxpayers to leave.

Not so the subjects of New York magazine's current cover package, and their beloved Mayor Mamdani. They're actively working to bring about depopulation by making life for the Big Apple's 900,000 Jews intolerable. These articles are part of a larger campaign whose purpose is to let Jews know they're no longer welcome in New York.

The lead piece, by Zaina Arafat, describes how she and fellow Habibis reacted in 2023 to the worst slaughter of Jews since the Holocaust. "In the months after Oct. 7," she writes, New York's Habibis were "increasingly spilling into view, desperate to be close" to "people who looked like you and spoke like you, living under the threat of annihilation. So we protested."

> **'This isn't two-state-solution rhetoric. It's a call for . . . genocide.'**

Um . . . *who* was living under the threat of annihilation again? The Habibi actions began on Oct. 8, with campus celebrations of Hamas and denunciations of Israel — and then erupted all over New York, with the ritualistic shredding of posters mourning the 240 hostages taken into Gaza by terrorists.

And those protests! One of them, on Oct. 28, shut down the Brooklyn Bridge when Israel was exactly 12 hours into its invasion of Gaza — that is, when the "genocide" that never actually happened *really* hadn't happened yet. It was the day of my son's bar mitzvah, and it took guests three hours to get to our celebration at a kosher restaurant on Brooklyn's Coney Island Avenue.

The Habibis intended that citywide disruption as a sign: They would use Hamas' Oct. 7 monstrousness as a ladder to climb toward political power in the US.

The New York magazine propaganda package — written entirely inside the worldview of those who believe Hamas is in the right and Israel and the Jews who support it are genocidaires — demonstrates that this effort continues. In so doing, its articles lay bare the degree to which anti-Zionism and antisemitism are indistinguishable.

Restaurants run by Jews deserve to be boycotted, and Jews who make and sell hummus are colonial oppressors stealing non-Jewish recipes. The 79-year-old country that's home to 7 million Jews is referred to without irony as "the land mass currently called Israel," effectively endorsing the idea that it should be wiped off the map.

This isn't two-state-solution rhetoric. It's not support for co-existence. It's a call for . . . genocide.

Those who believe such things are now the cultural and political vanguard of New York City, and they want to harness their power to close Jewish businesses — and weaken the law enforcement institutions necessary to protect Jews.

Oh, some Jews are to be tolerated — so long as they're willing to serve as ideological bodyguards for New York's antisemitic mayor. Consider the radical rabbis who begged Mamdani this week at Gracie Mansion to be nicer to Jews, or at least to talk more gently about them. These ordained Quislings want him to provide them cover for betraying their own people, the same way they've helped shield him from accusations of Jew-hatred.

I don't think Mamdani is going to make it that easy for them. After all, it's Habibi City now, where official maps showing the diversity of our metropolis make not a single mention of areas where Jews predominate, like Borough Park.

But those neighborhoods are frequently noted elsewhere in city documents — like the lists of victims of hate crimes. They're up 74% over last year, and the entirety of the growth comes from a 60% increase in anti-Jewish hate crimes.

New York magazine may turn a blind eye, but such grim statistics indicate that what began ironically as Fun City and is now Habibi City may soon turn into Pogrom City.

The Post Puzzle Page

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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I_1	U_1	U_1	T_1	R_1	P_3	S_1	3rd Letter Double	RACK 1
A_1	E_1	U_1	R_1	R_1	L_1	G_2		RACK 2
E_1	O_1	Y_4	T_1	G_2	N_1	B_3		RACK 3
A_1	E_1	E_1	U_1	L_1	B_3	Q_{10}	Triple Word Score	RACK 4

PAR SCORE 140-150
BEST SCORE 234

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

TODAY'S ANSWER

SCRABBLE GRAMS

							SOLUTION
P_3	U_1	R_1	S_1	U_1	I_1	T_1	RACK 1 = 60
R_1	E_1	G_2	U_1	L_1	A_1	R_1	RACK 2 = 58
B_3	Y_4	G_2	O_1	N_1	E_1		RACK 3 = 12
E_1	Q_{10}	U_1	A_1	B_3	L_1	E_1	RACK 4 = 104
							TOTAL 234

PAR SCORE 140-150

Directions: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 Letter words get 50 point bonus. "Blank" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE players Dictionary, 4th Edition.

Bridge

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 9
♡ 7 4 3 2
◇ A 6 5
♣ 10 9 5 2

WEST
♠ J 10 3 2
♡ Q 10 6
◇ K Q J 8
♣ J 7

EAST
♠ 8 7 5
♡ 9 8
◇ 10 9 2
♣ K 8 6 4 3

SOUTH
♠ A Q 6 4
♡ A K J 5
◇ 7 4 3
♣ A Q

South	West	North	East
2 NT	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
3 ♡	Pass	4 ♡	All Pass

Opening lead – ◇ K

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"He not only wins every finesse," Unlucky Louie sighed, "he somehow knows not to try ones that will lose."

Louie meant the player we call Harlow the Halo. While Louie labors under a cloud of adversity, good luck shines in Harlow's face like good health.

In a team match, Louie and Harlow played at four hearts. They both won the second diamond and cashed the A-K of trumps, declining a finesse. Harlow next took three spades to pitch dummy's last diamond, ruffed a diamond and led a club to . . . his queen. He ruffed his last spade in dummy and made an overtrick.

"I began the same way," Louie said, "but after I ruffed a diamond in dummy, I led a club to my ace and ruffed my last spade. I made four — and lost an IMP."

Harlow's club finesse was horrible — unless he'd seen the king in East's hand. If West had the king, he would cash his queen of trumps, and Harlow would lose a spade and go down.

"The man was born with a silver horseshoe in his mouth," Louie says.

Word Force

TANAGER

From the word or phrase above, form **AT LEAST 9** five-letter words, without using more than one form of the same word. For example, drink or drank (not both).

ANSWERS IN TOMORROW'S POST

Yesterday's word:

FINGERPRINT

feign
feint
finer
grief
grift
gripe
inept
inert
infer
inner
inter
print
refit
reign
ripen
tiger
tinge
trier
tripe

Wonderword

How to play: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **Circle their letters only. Do not circle the word.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

KENDRICK LAMAR (ENTERTAINER) **Solution: 12 letters**

R	O	L	O	S	R	A	T	S	E	H	T	L	L	A
M	A	S	K	O	F	F	E	Ⓡ	U	Z	I	E	O	L
R	D	P	B	T	L	A	N	Ⓤ	V	K	V	C	Y	F
M	R	R	P	H	K	D	O	Ⓞ	E	I	W	M	A	O
O	A	O	E	E	P	N	C	Ⓣ	T	O	M	S	L	R
R	K	D	E	A	R	A	H	A	H	A	A	U	T	D
A	E	U	R	L	L	A	T	S	R	F	A	E	Y	L
L	U	C	F	B	T	E	E	G	R	U	D	K	E	W
E	P	E	R	U	A	M	E	H	R	T	C	I	N	O
E	H	R	O	M	I	D	Y	E	N	U	I	L	T	B
L	O	T	F	T	I	T	W	H	E	R	T	T	I	R
B	R	R	F	R	H	O	L	Y	K	E	Y	O	H	E
M	I	L	P	M	P	C	O	M	P	T	O	N	W	P
U	A	F	E	I	R	G	N	I	D	E	T	I	N	U
H	I	P	H	O	P	U	E	L	B	B	A	U	Q	S

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Alford, All the Stars, Compton, DNA, Drake, Enoch, Euphoria, For Free, Future, Grammy, Halftime Show, Hip-hop, Holy Key, Humble, Levitate, Like That, Loyalty, M.A.A.D city, Mask Off, Mr. Morale, Not Like Us, Power, Pride, Producer, Rapper, Rhythm, Solo, Squabble Up, Super Bowl, The Album, Tour, United in Grief, Uzi, Vocal, Whitney

Yesterday's Answer: Horns

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POST SU DOKU

To solve a Su Doku, you must put a number from 1 to 9, in each empty box.

Each number must appear once in each horizontal row, as well as in each vertical column and in each of the 3-by-3 grids. Impossible? Not once you get the hang of it. Tips and in depth strategies at ***www.SudokuWiki.org***

PLAY MORE GAMES!

NYPOST.COM/GAMES

Solutions on Page 40

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Very Easy #7,369

		1				5		
			6	3	7	8	9	
3			1					
4		7		6		9		5
9		2		5		4		6
5		6		7		3		8
					3			4
	7	3	4	1	2			
		9				7		

Difficult #7,159

				1				
	3		7		8		9	
		9				6		4
1		8				7	4	3
2	4	6				1		8
8		4				3		
	6		5		9		8	
				7				

Quick Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14					■	15				■	16			
17					■	18				19				
20			■	21	22			■	23					
24			25				■	26				■	■	■
■	■	■	27			■	28			■	29	30	31	32
33	34	35			■	36				37	■	38		
39					40						41			
42			■	43					■	44				
45			46	■	47			■	48			■	■	■
■	■	■	49	50			■	51				52	53	54
55	56	57				■	58				■	59		
60						61			■	62	63			
64				■	65				■	66				
67				■	68				■	69				

Across

1 Biblical queen's land
6 "Hurry!" letters
10 Mojito garnish
14 Cultured sort?
15 Interpretation
16 Chimps and gorillas
17 Like 11-Down and 27-Across, often
18 Reply when Mr. Nicholson asks, "How do you like your coffee?"
20 Lode load
21 Bam Adebayo's team
23 Merchant stalls
24 Reply when Mr. Garfunkel asks how everyone is doing?
26 Beloved
27 Beer with a Grillo's Pickles flavor, briefly
28 Short clip?
29 Warbled
33 Bicycle spokes, essentially
36 Grand-scale tales
38 Battle (for)
39 Reply when Mr. Nye asks why there are so many wind turbines?
42 Yahoo! alternative
43 Midsize car
44 Great Grandma?
45 Lat neighbor
47 "Mean Girls" screenwriter Tina
48 Center prefix
49 Big bustles
51 Reply when Ms. Deeley mentions her new TV gig?
55 One with an eye for dotting i's
58 Downsides
59 Director DuVernay
60 Reply when Mr. Hamill says, "May the Force be with you"?
62 Along for the ride, say
64 Nerve
65 Lake at the Detroit River's end
66 Track star Bolt
67 Fashion monthly
68 Informal claim
69 Moore of "This Is Us"

Down

1 "Weird Al" specialty
2 Postimpressionist painter Rousseau
3 All finished, say
4 Wacoal garment
5 Cereal that once featured a crossword puzzle in magazine ads
6 Currently hitting
7 Curing agent
8 Otherwise called
9 Like a bird feeder
10 College paths
11 Some craft pours, for short
12 Make out
13 Tuts
19 Korean automaker
22 Go amiss
25 Grand-scale tale
26 "Bon appetit!"
28 Short trip?
30 Rental car giant
31 River near the Great Pyramid
32 Meshes well
33 Interpretation
34 Spiky succulent
35 "Hi-ho, the derry-o" locale
36 Heads and tails
37 Academic gathering
40 Back on the straight and narrow
41 Fume
46 Be a rat
48 One billion years
50 "Yabba-dabba-___!"
51 Classic colas
52 Board game with settlers
53 Dance around
54 Like some port
55 Perimeter
56 Body wash brand
57 "C'mon, ___ be fun"
58 Spot for a tot
61 Cal. neighbor
63 Codebreaker Challenge org.

P	A	S	S	■	P	A	L	M	■	■	N	S	F	W
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L	O	O	K	S	G	O	O	D	■	P	L	A	C	E
A	S	L	E	E	P	■	■	■	G	R	A	P	E	S
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F	L	U	■	B	A	S	■	N	A	P	■	S	G	T
C	O	R	D	O	N	■	■	■	L	I	T	T	E	R
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

(C) 2026 Tribune Media Services

Dow Jones Indust. Avg. **Down 21.58** 53,770.27

Business

Nasdaq Comp. **Up 143.04** 26,588.49

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AI stocks rally

The Nasdaq and S&P 500 ended higher on Wednesday, lifted by upbeat quarterly results from CoreWeave and other AI-infrastructure firms. Oil prices swung between modest gains and losses, and the price for a barrel of Brent crude added 0.1% to $88.98.

CEO time off

Home Depot said CEO Ted Decker, 63, will take a temporary medical leave of absence and is expected to return in the next few months. A reason wasn't disclosed.

Meta in court

Jury selection began in Meta's federal trial in Oakland, Calif., over claims its platforms have harmed youth mental health and also track children in violation of federal law.

StubHub fail

StubHub wasn't able to turn a profit in the second quarter, despite surging revenue from the World Cup, as costs climbed. The ticket reseller posted a loss of $40,000, and shares plunged 15% after hours.

Thanks, LA

The Los Angeles Lakers sale for $12.5 billion is good news for the NBA champion Knicks. Shares of parent Madison Square Garden Sports rose 5% to a record close of $414.12.

Sources: Reuters, Dow Jones, AP

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'ZERO' INTEREST!

Big US banks bail on feel-good climate orgs.

By ARIEL ZILBER

Wall Street's support of "net zero" climate initiatives has collapsed as major US banks and money managers have bolted from do-gooder environmental coalitions, according to a study.

All six major US banks — JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo — have quit the Net Zero Banking Alliance, according to the new report from the Committee to Unleash Prosperity.

The exodus helped cripple the once-powerful group, which had 140 member banks representing $75.5 trillion in combined assets as recently as November 2024.

The alliance ended operations as a membership organization last October and now provides voluntary climate guidelines, the report noted.

Overall, banks' support of "net zero" causes — which aim to drastically cut carbon emissions, to a level at which they can be absorbed naturally — plunged nearly 90% over the past four years, according to the Committee to Unleash Prosperity.

'Triumph of reality'

"There's been a vibe shift in the culture," Jerry Bowyer, CEO of Bowyer Research and an author of the report, told The Post.

Bowyer — whose firm advises companies on corporate and environmental, social and governance and policies — said some financial institutions may not have fully appreciated the commitments they were making when they joined the climate groups.

"I don't think it was made entirely clear to them what they were signing up for," Bowyer said.

Winds of change

The global economic situation has spurred a "vibe shift" among US banking giants, including JPMorgan Chase's Jamie Dimon (center), who have walked away from climate-activist groups pushing solar and wind power (right).

MR. BRIAN THOMAS MOYNIHAN
MR. JAMIE DIMON

"What we're seeing right now: the triumph of reality." — researcher Jerry Bowyer

Getty Images

Some companies later concluded "that some of the claims from the climate groups were more disputable," he added, while surging electricity needs from artificial intelligence and data centers underscored continued demand for fossil fuels.

"In the end, the laws of physics and chemistry win," Bowyer said. "And that's what we're seeing right now: the triumph of reality."

The report examined the climate affiliations of major US banks and asset managers that collectively oversee more than $40 trillion in assets and accounts under management. It found that none of the major institutions it examined remained a member of the Net Zero Banking Alliance, the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative or Climate Action 100+ as of October 2025.

The "NZAM" initiative, which at its height counted more than 300 members overseeing nearly $60 trillion, suspended operations in January of last year after BlackRock joined a string of major US asset managers in quitting.

The group relaunched in October as a guidance provider with reduced membership requirements, according to the report.

Climate Action 100+, meanwhile, lost a wave of major money managers in 2024, including JPMorgan, State Street and BlackRock's US operations.

Morgan Stanley left that July, followed by Goldman Sachs and Mellon Investments the next month, the report said. The retreat has not necessarily meant Wall Street has abandoned climate policies altogether, however.

"You can take the bank out of the climate group, but it's a little tougher to take the climate group out of the bank," Bowyer told The Post.

The report singled out Morgan Stanley, Bank of America, Pimco and Citigroup as banks that retain stronger connections to climate organizations.

Inflation dip may keep rates steady

Inflation eased slightly in July, likely bolstering arguments from Fed officials who want to keep interest rates on hold — though tensions with Iran have since reheated, meaning energy prices could drive that figure higher again.

The Consumer Price Index rose 3.4% in July over the past 12 months, cooling slightly from 3.5% in June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said Wednesday.

Core CPI — which excludes volatile food and energy prices — rose 0.2% over the month, for a 2.5% annual rate. That's slightly better than June's 2.6% rate, but it's still stubbornly above central bankers' 2% goal.

Though July's report showed inflation is slowing from stunning heights above 4% in the spring, consumers are still feeling the pressure as prices outpace wages, which grew just 3.2% last month.

Odds that the Fed will hold rates at its September meeting rose above 61% from 52% the previous day, according to CME FedWatch.

Skyler Weinand, chief investment officer at Regan Capital, said the CPI report is "welcome news," but there's a "long and unknown road for inflation" to fall toward 2%. *Taylor Herzlich*

Morgan's crypto banner day

Morgan Stanley is so deep into cryptocurrency, it launched its own bitcoin trust. So it's no surprise that "CRYPTO" appears often in the investment bank's spectacular new, 21,000-square-foot digital display at its 1585 Broadway headquarters.

"Introducing crypto trading you can trust," reads one of the ever-changing pitches on the sign's half-dozen electronic ribbons (right).

The installation, which was lit up this week, replaced the one installed in 2015. That setup was turned off in phases starting in October 2023 and went dark in February 2024. After that, Times Square crowds were puzzled by seemingly endless construction and scaffolding that was finally dismantled in recent weeks.

One of Times Square's largest digital displays, Morgan Stanley's new installation features 31.5 million pixels, compared with a mere 6 million in 2015. It's so big that four NBA basketball courts would fit within it, a source said, with room to spare.

"Broadway is a bit brighter thanks to Morgan Stanley's significant investment in a new sign and facade upgrades to their global headquarters," Times Square Alliance president Tom Harris said.

Morgan Stanley wouldn't say how much the "investment" cost. *Steve Cuozzo*

Hello, crypto.
Introducing crypto trading you can trust
Trade crypto on our award-winning platform.

Apple's storm Cloud

A California man is suing Apple in a proposed class-action lawsuit for allegedly misleading consumers about the privacy benefits of iCloud's paid subscription tier — saying it falsely claimed that users' IP addresses would be hidden.

Edward Rickman said he purchased iCloud+ for access to iCloud Private Relay, a feature that Apple promises will "Hide your IP address and browsing activity in Safari and protect your unencrypted internet traffic," according to a suit filed last week in California federal court.

Apple charges customers between $0.99 to $59.99 a month for the premium iCloud subscription, depending on how much storage they want, according to its website.

But three flaws in Apple's WebKit, which powers the Safari browser, allowed websites to access users' real IP addresses even when the premium feature was switched on, the lawsuit alleged.

"Apple built its entire brand on the promise that it would protect its users' privacy when no other company would," Tim Giordano, a partner at Clarkson Law Firm, which is leading the litigation, told The Post.

Apple didn't respond to a request for comment. Its site states: "Privacy. That's Apple." *Taylor Herzlich*

'Cookie monster'

Bill Gates' daughter accused of web credit scam

By TAYLOR HERZLICH

Bill Gates' "nepo baby" daughter Phoebe Gates, 23, has been accused of "cookie stuffing" at her multibillion-dollar startup, Phia — an illicit practice that comes with a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison, according to reports.

Phia — a digital personal shopping assistant co-founded by Gates with fellow Stanford alum Sophia Kianni — reacted with shock in July following reports that it was dropping more web "cookies" than it should, taking undue credit for online sales at retail partners.

The company released a statement that it had only learned of the issue "within the last 24 hours," pledging to fix the glitch — but according to a new Bloomberg report, the young entrepreneurs had known for at least seven months their startup was overcounting its sales commissions.

Ariel Givner, founder and principal attorney at Givner Law, warned in a post on X Tuesday that "cookie stuffing" can come with serious consequences.

"It's typically treated as federal wire fraud in US courts. There's a possibility of a max penalty of up to 20 years prison + fines/restitution," Givner wrote.

A Phia rep told The Post: "Any features causing misattributions were immediately removed over a month ago on July 7. We are reviewing every transaction, we are fully committed to and have already begun issuing all transaction reversals to brand partners as a result of any misattribution, and we are hiring a head of compliance to make sure something like this never happens again."

The startup — which raised a jaw-dropping $30 million in 2025 from backers including Hailey Bieber, Kris Jenner and Spanx founder Sara Blakely — operates as a browser extension, finding discount codes for customers across online retailers when they click on Phia at checkout.

When a shopper uses Phia by selecting one of its coupon codes, the software drops a "cookie" — which tracks activity across the web — to show that retailer it helped drive the sale and earn itself a commission.

But Kianni and Gates were aware of features that dropped cookies into the checkout process even when customers didn't use Phia, Bloomberg reported, citing sources and internal Slack messages.

Fishy commishy

Phoebe Gates' startup Phia has been accused of "cookie stuffing" — dropping undeserved "cookies" signaling it helped drive sales — to get inflated commissions. Phia says it is fixing the problem that it blames on a glitch.

Getty Images / Adobe stock

Wendy's take-private bid

Billionaire Nelson Peltz's Trian Fund Management is forming a consortium of investors to take fast-food chain Wendy's private, a source said Wednesday.

The group could include Bugatti-backer BlueFive Capital and Flynn Group — a Wendy's franchisee — and is likely to submit a bid in the coming weeks, the source said.

Shares jumped 15% to $8.66 on Wednesday.

The potential take-private deal comes as the chain grapples with sluggish demand, with a fresh leadership team evaluating strategic options as part of a broader turnaround effort.

Peltz, who explored a takeover of Wendy's in 2022, holds a 16.24% stake in the chain. Wendy's, which has a market value of about $1.65 billion, said it would thoroughly review any proposal. *Reuters*

Claude's question 'mark

Anthropic is adding watermarks to AI-generated content in order to comply with a strict new transparency law in Europe — drawing gripes from some users.

The AI giant, known for its Claude chatbot, linked the move to the European Union AI Act's transparency code — aimed at helping people distinguish human-made content from the AI-generated variety — which took effect on Aug. 2.

The watermarks appear automatically in AI-generated text, images and files, according to a support page on Anthropic's website.

"This is such a massive blunder on Anthropic's part," one person wrote on Reddit. "That mark will be the kiss of death on any piece of text that people can sell."

Another complained: "Claude watermarking our work is unethical and disgusting." *Thomas Barrabi*

New Pixels pack punch

Google on Wednesday unveiled its latest lineup of Pixel phones, with slimmer cameras that include a more powerful zoom and artificial intelligence features designed to help users accomplish things with fewer taps and swipes.

The new phones will double the previous storage size, starting at 256 gigabytes, and feature 30 hours of battery life and faster wireless charging.

Prices for the Pixel 11 series start at $900 and are $100 higher than last year's prices. *AP*

JULIE MENIN
Speaker wants answers.

Predict markets probe

The New York City Council is investigating prediction markets Polymarket, Kalshi, Coinbase and Gemini Titan for alleged deceptive marketing and targeting underaged users.

The probe marks the latest battle in the mounting legal and regulatory war prediction markets are fighting since bursting into the mainstream in 2024.

Council Speaker Julie Menin wrote the companies letters Monday demanding answers on how much they earn in New York, the number of users who are city residents and how their marketing operations function. Among her over 60 questions, the Manhattan Dem wants answers about how the companies comply with consumer protection laws.

Polymarket said it is cooperating, while Kalshi declined to comment.

Coinbase said it "fully complies with applicable laws." Gemini didn't respond for comment. *Marc Vartabedian*

Media sue Truth Social

Two media organizations on Wednesday sued President Trump over his namesake company's real-time feed of top Truth Social accounts, arguing that selling preferential access to the president's statements is unconstitutional.

The Intercept and Freedom of the Press Foundation alleged that Trump Media's Truth API violates the First and Fifth Amendments. Trump Media said the lawsuit is an attempt to censor Trump and harm its shareholders. *Dow Jones*

MAYBE CBS *FLEWS*

No 'News' is bad news

Paramount Skydance, helmed by CEO David Ellison (below far left), is looking at moving its CBS News Division headquarters from its longtime Manhattan home, possibly to Atlanta, as state attorneys general — including Letitia James (center) of New York and Rob Bonta (far right) of California — push hard to thwart Paramount's megamerger with Warner Bros. Discovery.

CBS BROADCAST CENTE

> **"The real negotiation is how much [Ellison] will move out of California and New York."**
>
> *— Paramount insider*

Christopher Sadowski; Reuters; Matthew McDermott

Ellison eyes 'News' exit from NY amid AG fight

By CHARLES GASPARINO
and TAYLOR HERZLICH

Paramount is considering the option of moving CBS News out of the Big Apple as its legal battle with New York and California's attorneys general is heating up, The Post has learned.

One point of leverage for Paramount is potentially moving its news operations out of New York City as California Attorney General Rob Bonta leads a coalition of 12 lefty states in an effort to block Paramount's $110 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, people close to Paramount told The Post on Wednesday.

While CEO David Ellison would prefer not to relocate CBS News, there have been broad discussions internally about a potential move to another city, said a source with knowledge of the matter.

Moving CBS News would mark a seismic change to the media landscape — and the idea comes as Paramount's board has approved a plan to move its Hollywood studio out of California if Bonta doesn't agree to settlement talks.

CBS News has about 1,200 employees worldwide, with a chunk of them in New York City, according to a network spokesperson.

"The real negotiation is how much he will move out of California and New York of his current operations. If it involves a lot of production, that's a lot of jobs," a source told The Post.

Focus on Atlanta

The person, a media executive with knowledge of Paramount's intentions, said Ellison could move all his news operations to Atlanta, where CNN is headquartered, in anticipation of eventually winning the legal row with the state AGs — even if the case reaches the Supreme Court.

Another source close to the company described the possible moves as "contingency plans."

CBS News' Broadcast Center could fetch the billionaire Ellison family a "couple of billion dollars," the source added.

Paramount insiders believe Bonta wants a spin-off of CNN, a Warner Bros. asset before any deal is pushed through — though Ellison isn't willing to do that as of now.

But people inside Paramount are still optimistic the company will be able to reach a settlement with Bonta, whom Ellison wants to come to the table by Oct. 1.

Under the terms of its deal with WBD, from Oct. 1 onward, Paramount would have to cough up a painful $7 million per day to WBD shareholders until the merger is done.

Paramount had been hoping for a speedy court battle starting in November, but a federal judge last week set a March 2027 trial date — a painful setback for Ellison that saw him write an op-ed published in The New York Times pledging to be a "trusted steward" of CNN.

Ellison is seeking leverage in his battle with Bonta and New York Attorney General Letitia James, though it's unclear how much of his production operations he is prepared to move.

No formal talks are now taking place, and the two sides remain at odds over possible concessions, sources told The Post.

Pressure has been mounting within the Democratic Party to keep the studio owner happy and prevent any backlash from an exodus of Hollywood jobs, sources said.

Paramount mulling CNN sale to get deal done

Paramount Skydance is keeping all options, including a possible sale of CNN, "on the table" to resolve California's antitrust suit challenging its $110 billion acquisition of CNN owner Warner Bros Discovery, Paramount's chief legal officer said.

Speaking at Politico's California Agenda conference Tuesday, Makan Delrahim also became the first Paramount exec to publicly acknowledge the LA-based company may leave California, after recent media reports cited unnamed sources about a potential relocation.

Meanwhile, Paramount in recent months has discussed creating an editorial board for CNN and other safeguards to ease concerns over its news operation's independence, The Wall Street Journal reported Wednesday.

The internal discussions about establishing an oversight panel for news have come up as the company has planned for the deal's closing, sources told the Journal.

The deal is now on hold as an antitrust lawsuit filed by California and 11 other states winds its way through the federal court system. A trial is scheduled for March.

The plaintiffs allege that combining Warner and Paramount would give one company too much power over theatrical movie distribution and cable television.

Paramount's discussions about creating an editorial board for CNN began before the lawsuit was filed, said a source familiar with the talks. *Wires*

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NASSAU COUNTY
LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
SEALED BIDS will be publicly opened by the DEPT. OF SHARED SERVICES, COUNTY OF NASSAU, at its office, 1 West Street, Mineola, New York 11501 at 11:00 A.M. (EST) on the date(s) indicated below.
Bid Opening Date:
August 25, 2026
1. Super Z Hustler Lawn Mowers;
2. Certified Calibration Weights.
August 27, 2026
1. Irrigation Equipment.
All bids must be made on DEPT. OF SHARED SERVICES bidding sheets only, subject to all County terms, conditions and detailed specifications which must be downloaded @https://eproc.nassaucountyny.gov/Login
Dated: August 13, 2026 at Mineola, New York

NASSAU COUNTY
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Notice of formation of SINNERMAN RECORDS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/10/2026. Office location: Nassau County. SSNY designated as an agent of Limited Liability Company (LLC) upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY should mail process to REGISTERED AGENTS INC: 418 BROADWAY, STE R, ALBANY, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

T-Mobile USA is proposing to modify an existing wireless telecommunications facility on an existing building located at 195 Montague Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11201. The modifications will consist of the installation antennas at varying heights not to exceed 182 feet on a 184.1-foot building (219.4 foot to highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending comments to: Project 260070481PR, EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (617) 715-1822.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, STEPHAN G. MARCELIN, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, or TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007 on August 25, 2026, at 12:30 p.m., security consisting of 138 shares of VICTORIA OWNERS CORP., in the name of RAYMOND FINK AND MARYL FRANK, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 7 EAST 14TH STREET, APARTMENT #1028, NEW YORK - 10003, RAYMOND FINK AND MARYL FRANK, as Lessees, and VICTORIA OWNERS CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF III ACQUISITION TRUST (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated August 11, 2014, executed by and between RAYMOND FINK AND MARYL FRANK and LUXURY MORTGAGE CORP. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 15, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
120 White Plains Road
Suite 215
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 345-3020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CO-OP APARTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, or STEPHAN MARCELIN, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007 on August 25, 2026, at 1:30 p.m., security consisting of 78 shares of 322 E. 14TH ST. OWNERS CORP., in the name of JOHN CRAIGMILE, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 322 EAST 14TH STREET, APT 2R, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10003, JOHN CRAIGMILE, as Lessees, and 322 E. 14TH ST. OWNERS CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of Newrez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated April 26, 2010, executed by and between JOHN CRAIGMILE and BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 21, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
120 White Plains Road
Suite 215
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 345-3020

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE CO-OP APARTMENT

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that pursuant to Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, STEPHAN G. MARCELIN, Auctioneer, JOHN WILLIAM O'KEEFE, Auctioneer, or TERENCE GEE, Auctioneer, will sell at public auction with reserve to the highest bidder, at the Portico of the New York County Courthouse, 60 Centre St, New York, NY 10007 on August 25, 2026, at 1:00 p.m., security consisting of 165 shares of PROSPECT OWNERS CORP., in the name of KEMAR L. SWABY, and all right, title and interest in and to a Proprietary Lease for Cooperative, located in a building known as and by the street address 45 TUDOR CITY PL, APT. 516, NEW YORK, NY 10017, KEMAR L. SWABY, as Lessees, and PROSPECT OWNERS CORP., as Lessor.

This sale is held to satisfy an indebtedness of the unpaid principal balance, interest, attorney fees, and advances through August 25, 2026, and to enforce the rights of SELENE FINANCE, LP (the "Secured Party"), arising under a Security Agreement dated October 3, 2023, executed by and between KEMAR L. SWABY and JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. The Secured Party reserves the right to bid.

The Co-op Apartment will be sold "AS IS", subject to open common charges, and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser.

DATED: July 15, 2026

Knuckles & Manfro, LLP
Attorneys for SECURED PARTY
120 White Plains Road
Suite 215
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 345-3020

Coach OK looking at corner despite kidnapping charge

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Terrion Arnold finished his visit to the Giants without signing.

But the door is open to Arnold. And sooner than anyone who expected the Giants — and other NFL teams — to wait for a resolution on the free agent cornerback's felony kidnapping and robbery charges before adding him.

"We want to be aggressive in every way, find everything out we can about any situation or player that can help us be better," head coach John Harbaugh said Wednesday after meeting with Arnold at the facility. "The margins are tight in the NFL when you try to win a game. We're looking for players that can help us all the time. He's a player that can help us."

The Giants rebuffed some offseason free agent interest from receiver Stefon Diggs, who was found not guilty of felony strangulation and misdemeanor assault and battery charges stemming from an incident with his former private chef.

But Arnold, 23, is younger, cheaper, and his charges do not involve violence against a woman but rather accusations of orchestrating the kidnapping and beating of three men whom prosecutors believe he wrongly suspected of stealing $100,000 in cash, luxury watches and bags from him. Arnold, who is facing a life sentence if convicted, denies involvement

The Lions released Arnold, a 2024 first-round pick who was a struggling starter, after he was charged. Other teams, including the Jets, have brought him in for a visit.

"The legal process could take years and then his career is gone," Harbaugh said. "You have to decide, where does the legal process stand. What are you really talking about here? You have to make a judgment along those lines."

The Giants cut their 2019 first-round cornerback DeAndre Baker after he was arrested and charged with armed robbery in 2020. Baker got a second chance with the Chiefs after the charge was dismissed.

If he signs, the NFL could put Arnold on the commissioner's exempt list (cannot play) before the legal process plays out.

Jets CB Stiggers in concussion protocol

By BRIAN COSTELLO

JETS NOTES

The Jets continued to get good news about cornerback Qwan'tez Stiggers, who was taken from practice Tuesday in an ambulance after passing out.

Jets coach Aaron Glenn said Stiggers is recovering but he is in the concussion protocol after showing symptoms.

"Really good news on Stiggers, he was out of the hospital yesterday. He's doing fine," Glenn said. "He's actually in the concussion protocol, he had symptoms yesterday, so we'll take care of that exactly how we do when any of our guys are in that situation. So, I'm really proud of that. I talked to him a good amount last night, he's doing well. I talked to his wife, she's taking good care of him, so I'm happy about that."

Glenn did not say exactly what caused Stiggers to pass out, whether it was related to a hit he took or if it was dehydration or something else.

➤ Glenn said he wanted to see how his defense would fare against **Baker Mayfield** in a two-minute drill, so he and Tampa coach **Todd Bowles** agreed to end Wednesday's practice with a two-minute period.

Mayfield carved the Jets up. After an initial incompletion, he completed five passes and led the Buccaneers 68 yards for a touchdown. The Jets coverage was poor.

"Obviously, we let them score in a two-minute," Glenn said. "Again, this is why I wanted to go against this team, knowing how Baker operates in this situation. I got to help them when it comes to defensive calls, I got to help them."

➤ The Jets offense also struggled in the two-minute drill and failed to score. The one highlight was a catch by TE **Jeremy Ruckert**, who leapt and caught a **Geno Smith** pass at the highest point over **Antoine Winfield Jr.**

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Post Time: **1:10 p.m.**
vcangialosi@nypost.com

Saratoga

Analysis by Vic Cangialosi

Lock of the Day | **Shoot It True (7th)**
Lock Record: 11 for 24 (46%)
Meet Record: 62/257 $425.68

1 5 1/2 fur(T); $100,000; mdn; 3up(f)

On the turf in the opener. That's where **MY LIL ARMY GIRL** does her best fighting. Close 3rd, then 2nd last 2 tries. **APERITIF** Narrowly defeated last pair. Irad on the M/L fave. Blinkers on. Chris Englehart's **LIVELY PAL** (7th) and Linda Rice's **COMBAT MOVE** (2nd) switch to the grass after debuting on dirt. Lively Pal the better value.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Galway Gurl,122	K Davis	4-12-x	Ferraro	8-1
2	Lively Pal(M),122	J Lezcano	7-x-x	Englehart	12-1
3	Combat Move(L),122	J Ortiz	2-x-x	Rice	3-1
4	Daylight Dreamer(L),122	K Carmouche	11-2-7	Englehart	9-2
5	My Lil Army Girl(L),122	M Franco	3-2-3	De Paz	4-1
6	Aperitif(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-5	Merryman	5-2
7	Liberty's Advance(L),122	J Alvarado	3-3-5	Mott	5-1

2 6 fur; $71,000; mdn clm($85,000); 3up

A sloppy 4th for **MO THE MERRIER** racing 7/8 in the mud. 2nd best debuting at this distance previously. Irad rides for McPeek. **THE STANDARD** Flat 4th at this distance, then a much better 2nd traveling 7/8. **ONEPAC** Board hitter 3 of 4, all at 6 1/2 furlongs.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Relative Risk(L),122	L Saez	4-x-x	Bartkowski	15-1
2	Mo the Merrier(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	4-3-2	McPeek	9-5
3	Grand Gesture(L),126	J Alvarado	5-4-x	Mott	5-1
4	Cost Effective(L),122	R Santana, Jr	5-4-6	C Brown	6-1
5	The Standard(L),122	J Ortiz	2-4-10	Asmussen	2-1
6	Onepac(L),126	E Zayas	9-3-3	Terranova II	4-1

3 1 mile; $70,000; alw; 3up(f)

Smart choice. **LADY WISDOM** scored 2 back then a clear 2nd after racing wide. Rebounds for Kantarmaci. **TIMIA** is 2 for 20 but has landed in the money 8 straight. Again. **BABCIE** moved lower and won handily, at 2nd asking. Giddings has her competitively spotted.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Lady Wisdom(L),126	R Santana, Jr	2-1-4	Kantarmaci	7-5
2	Our Preferred Pal(L),126	R Silvera	4-6-1	Englehart	6-1
3	Island Charm(L),121	M Franco	1-3-2	Kantarmaci	8-1
4	Babcie(L),121	J Alvarado	1-7-x	Giddings	4-1
5	Timia(L),126	J Castellano	3-2-2	Potts	5-2
6	Icy Legs(L),121	C Elliott	5-7-3	Lalman	15-1
7	Spirit of Esther(L),126	S Gonzalez	3-4-5	Kantarmaci	15-1

4 1 3/16 miles(T); $120,000; alw; 3up(f)

Going long on the lawn. **TULIP** Synthetics to turf for Walden. 1 for 2 on grass. The win earned at 1 1/8 miles. Alvarado on the Woodbine shipper. **PRINCESS BECCA** was a photo finish winner. Moves higher if we're off turf. **MAJAZ** moves over from Woodbine as well. A win, then a close 2nd last pair, both at 1 1/16 miles. 0 for 2 at this distance but Irad a good sign. **MIDNIGHT CONCERTO** ran evenly, 3 lengths short racing 1 1/2 miles. 4th of 9 lone start at this distance. J Ortiz up.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Majaz(GB)(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	2-1-x	Casse	2-1
2	Make You Mine(IRE)(L),126	T Gaffalione	4-x-x	C Brown	3-1
3	Special Wood(FR)(L),121	K Davis	6-7-7	Proctor	15-1
4	Midnight Concerto(L),126	J Ortiz	3-2-1	McPeek	7-2
5	Tulip(L),121	J Alvarado	4-1-3	Walden	5-2
6	Trail of Gold(L),126	J Velazquez	4-2-6	Donk	8-1
7	Soundbite(L),126	Rider TBA	5-4-4	Nevin	3-1
8	Chartist(L),121	Rider TBA	1-2-2	Clement	6-1
9	Purloin(L),126	J Ortiz	5-1-2	Rice	9-5
10	Princess Becca(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	1-5-6	Noda	8-1

5 6 fur; $43,000; clm($20,000); 3up(f)

Outrun twice at odds of 16-1 and 30-1, **CLOUDY CHANCE** moves lower for C Englehart. Cloudy has a better Chance, at a shorter price. **VEKOMANCER** Turf to dirt for Rice. Close 3rd racing for 50k last dirt start. 2 for 4 at this distance. Rider change to Franco. **SPUN SIZE** ran well for 2nd before shipping from Finger Lakes.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Vino Frizzante(L),126	J Rodriguez	6-3-6	Potts	5-1
2	Calling an Audible(L),126	T Gaffalione	5-2-3	Barker	10-1
3	Vekomancer(L),126	M Franco	7-4-3	Rice	2-1
4	Spun Size(L),126	L Rivera, Jr	2-5-6	Baker	8-1
5	Santagata(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-5-6	Bhigroog	30-1
6	Scarlet's Dream(L),126	C Elliott	8-5-1	Brion	10-1
7	St. Brigid's Cross(L),122	D Davis	5-8-6	Miceli	15-1
8	Mascara(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-5	Diodoro	3-1
9	Cloudy Chance(L),126	J Lezcano	6-5-3	Englehart	6-1

6 1 mile(T); $130,000; alw; 4up(f)

A breather for **FIONN** after checking in 4 lengths shy in a Grade 3 at Gulfstream in January. Winner 7 of previous 10 including the Grade 1 Belmont Oaks at Saratoga last summer. Irad picks her up for Brad Cox. **ANNAS PROMISE** MTO. Beat similar in the slop in May. **TABLE FLIRT** Only 2 lengths short, at 39-1, in the De La Rose mile. Shorter price today. And **SHOTGUN WEDDING** was 3rd in the longer Miss Liberty at Monmouth.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Fionn(L),123	I Ortiz, Jr	6-1-4	Cox	6-5
2	Shotgun Wedding(L),123	J Ortiz	3-5-5	Casse	7-2
3	Table Flirt(L),123	J Alvarado	5-4-2	Mott	3-1
4	Ready to Jam(L),123	M Franco	4-8-1	Cox	8-1
5	Amber Cascade(L),121	J Castellano	3-8-5	Maker	6-1
6	Spinning Colors(L),121	J Velazquez	5-5-7	Hennig	10-1
7	Anna's Promise(L),123	L Saez	4-1-8	David	1-1

7 5 1/2 fur(T); $125,000; alw; 3up(f)

SHOOT IT TRUE is 2 for 6 on turf and never off the board. Close 3rd in the Grade 2 Intercontinental, this distance in latest. Irad gets her home for Ward. **NEXT ON STAGE** won by a 1/2 dozen last month. Right back if we're off turf. **ABIENTOT** (Casse) was 3rd behind **QUIET CONFIDENCE** (Ryerson) who was 2nd here in July. Both should be considered for exotic wagering. Same can be said for **HIGHWAY HARMONY** who has won 4 in row, the latest in the Hettinger.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Abientot(L),126	D Davis	3-3-3	Casse	6-1
2	Shades of Jade(L),126	R Santana, Jr	4-7-6	Antonacci	8-1
3	Highway Harmony(L),126	E Zayas	1-1-1	Green	5-2
4	Quiet Confidence(L),126	C Elliott	2-4-6	Ryerson	5-1
5	Opulent Restraint(L),126	J Alvarado	5-6-3	Mott	12-1
6	Shoot It True(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-2	Ward	1-1
7	Coaster(L),126	I Ortiz, Jr	1-2-8	Moquett	3-1
8	Next On Stage(L),126	M Franco	1-8-3	Rice	8-5
9	All Class(L),126	Rider TBA	4-5-3	R Dutrow	5-2

8 1 3/4 miles; $200,000; Birdstone; 3up

The feature is the 1 3/4 mile Birdstone. **PARCHMENT PARTY** was a vanilla 7th in the shorter Suburban. Winner 4 of previous 5, twice at this distance, including last years Birdstone. Johnny V was at the wheel. **STARS AND STRIPES** was 8th in the Suburban. Won previous pair, both at shorter distances including a Grade 3. **INTERCEPTOR** was 2nd behind top pick then a close 3rd with optional claimers next out. Proven at 1 1/4 miles. **ANNEXPERIENCE** is 2 for 2 on dirt; both at a mile. Gets distance test today.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Parchment Party,126	J Velazquez	7-1-1	Mott	8-5
2	Annexperience,124	K Carmouche	1-4-1	Englehart	10-1
3	Stars and Stripes,126	L Saez	8-1-1	Mott	5-2
4	Passing Game,124	T Gaffalione	9-2-3	Hendriks	15-1
5	Waitlist,124	M Franco	5-8-5	Rice	20-1
6	Interceptor,124	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-2	Maker	9-2
7	Jokestar,124	J Ortiz	5-2-1	Attard	4-1
8	Carolo Rapido,124	R Santana, Jr	3-2-1	Casse	20-1

9 6 fur; $115,000; mdn; 3up

Debut day for **ROYAL ENCLOSURE**. Rodriguez rides the Yaupon 3YO for Abreu. **CRITERIA** Board hitter 4 of 5. Irad rides the M/L fave for Chad Brown. **COMPLEX CHARLIE** Tired 3rd at this distance. May hold on for a share again. **BAMBOOZIE** (J Englehart/Santana/Charlatan) makes career debut as well.

PN	Horse Wt.	Jockey	Last 3	Trainer	Odds
1	Flight Commander(M),122	M Franco	x-x-x	McGaughey III	10-1
2	Criteria(L),122	I Ortiz, Jr	3-2-3	C Brown	5-2
3	Spherical(L),122	D Davis	3-11-5	Summers	10-1
4	Royal Enclosure(M),122	J Rodriguez	x-x-x	Abreu	8-1
5	Dark Force(M),122	J Velazquez	x-x-x	Weaver	12-1
6	Ima Big Bad Wolf(M),122	C Elliott	4-6-3	Baker	20-1
7	Bamboozie(M),122	R Santana, Jr	x-x-x	Englehart	6-1
8	Palpable(L),122	J Alvarado	8-7-x	Giddings	20-1
9	Complex Charlie(L),122	J Castellano	3-2-4	C Martin	7-2
10	Holy Seven(L),122	J Ortiz	6-4-x	Asmussen	5-1

PLAY OF THE DAY

We played three first-time starters. Maybe they will be better when they make their second start. Brown Sugar Betty (12-1), Tappin Magic (15-1) and Cyber Baby (10-1) all looked overmatched shortly after leaving the gate. Loss of -$54.

Retreating. One play. Bet $10 across the board on Royal Enclosure in Race 9.

— Vic Cangialosi

Yonkers for Thursday

Post Time: 6:45 p.m.

FIRST: Mile pace; $20,000; NY EX

1	Rough Deal	(RWarren)	7-4-6	15-1
2	River Ranch Dawson	(DDube)	2-5-4	5-1
3	Magic Journey	(TButer)	2-5-2	5-2
4	Aries Blue Chip	(CKelly)	1-1-1	6-5
5	Jericho Johnny	(JBongiorno)	3-5-6	8-1
6	HunthehuntrDeVie	(BHollnd)	4-2-7	8-1

SECOND: Mile pace; $82,500; NYSS

1	Hard To Forget	(CKelly)	7-3-5	15-1
2	Hunting Glory	(RWarren)	3-5-1	7-2
3	Hunt Off ThePress	(DMcNair)	4-6-3	3-1
4	Knoxville	(TButer)	4-2-1	4-5
5	Fearless Partners	(JStratton)	5-3-4	6-1

THIRD: Mile pace; $81,000; NYSS

1	Fragment	(YGingras)	1-1-1	4-5
2	UnmatchedWisdom	(LBailey)	6-3-6	4-1
3	Cooperstown Boy	(DMcNair)	2-1-2	2-1
4	Twin BManhunt	(JBongiorno)	3-2-2	6-1

FOURTH: Mile pace; $20,000; NY EX

1	Killing Joke	(LBailey)	4-1-8	5-2
2	Casper The Ghost	(TButer)	1-2-2	6-5
3	Lighten Up Francis	(CKelly)	6-3-5	15-1
4	Ranger Walker	(BHolland)	5-3-4	8-1
5	Johnny Wiggles	(DMcNair)	3-1-1	5-2

FIFTH: Mile trot; $13,100; Naada

1	Pc Free Wheeling	(VStratton)	3-4-4	6-5
2	Muscle Dan	(ACiuffetelli)	7-3-4	9-2
3	ShoemakerHanver	(Clbrese)	7-7-4	20-1
4	Bacardi	(JLee)	6-2-6	8-1
5	Ima Standup Guy	(JFaraldo)	4-7-4	6-1
6	Baby Tao	(SKeppler)	7-2-4	15-1
7	Big Limo	(PKleinhans)	4-1-5	5-1
8	WindsongPioneer	(Beltram)	5-8-8	20-1

SIXTH: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	Credit Con	(JBongiorno)	4-2-2	9-2
2	AirmansJackpot	(PLachance)	2-6-2	12-1
3	Kays In Charge	(BHolland)	5-1-2	9-5
4	Mon Amour	(CKelly)	7-4-3	9-2
5	Hat Trick Marleau	(JStratton)	3-3-2	12-1
6	Kasha V	(JMarohn)	2-4-4	20-1
7	Sir Maverick	(TButer)	2-2-7	7-2
8	B Nicking	(AMiller)	8-3-1	15-1

SEVENTH: Mile trot; $28,000; cond

1	Torrone	(BHolland)	6-5-2	2-1
2	Seven Layer	(ASiegelman)	6-7-3	6-1
3	Black Velvet As	(CKelly)	1-1-4	9-5
4	Hand Dover Dan	(DDube)	7-1-1	20-1
5	Ritson	(JStratton)	7-4-5	12-1
6	The Brodster	(JMarohn)	1-3-7	9-2
7	Camera Man	(JBongiorno)	6-4-2	20-1
8	Honolulu Hanover	(TButer)	3-6-5	20-1

EIGHTH: Mile trot; $28,000; cond

1	Frank Leahy	(TButer)	5-1-2	7-2
2	Onajetplane	(JStratton)	5-2-2	5-1
3	Wheelzablazin	(BHolland)	4-4-7	5-1
4	Massive Desire	(JMarohn)	1-3-8	3-1
5	Kildare King	(JBongiorno)	1-1-1	5-1
6	Taipan As	(CKelly)	1-1-2	6-1
7	P L Oscar	(ASiegelman)	1-6-8	20-1
8	Exquisite Taste	(PLachance)	2-4-2	20-1

NINTH: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	Jas Bluestone	(CKelly)	1-5-3	6-5
2	WhiskeyPeddler	(JBongiorn)	5-4-5	6-1
3	Mazeppa N	(JStratton)	5-2-7	20-1
4	Willy Walton	(JMarohn)	6-1-2	5-1
5	Stacking Green	(BHolland)	7-1-3	3-1
6	Smoking Jet	(DDube)	2-6-7	20-1
7	Uncle Rat	(TButer)	8-1-1	20-1
8	BigCharlieMoran	(Segelmn)	1-3-4	20-1

TENTH: Mile trot; $43,000; Invitational

1	Southwind Coors	(TButer)	3-2-1	5-2
2	Ma Isabelle	(PLachance)	3-3-1	15-1
3	Always A Story	(JStratton)	2-1-6	4-1
4	Hillexotic	(ASiegelman)	4-2-1	2-1
5	Asteroid	(CKelly)	2-3-3	4-1
6	Oliver The Great	(JMarohn)	1-1-2	10-1
7	Mississippi Storm	(BHolland)	2-1-6	20-1

ELEVENTH: Mile trot; $22,000; claiming

1	Aquarius Face S	(PLachance)	8-2-1	3-1
2	Warrawee Whisper	(DDube)	5-7-7	6-1
3	Radio Lab	(AMiller)	2-8-5	6-1
4	SunburntSilverd	(ASegelmn)	1-1-3	8-1
5	Classical Jane	(TButer)	6-2-1	5-2
6	Bellissimo Face S	(CKelly)	3-2-1	5-1
7	For A Dreamer	(BHolland)	4-6-6	20-1
8	Sensi Amnesia	(JMarohn)	2-3-1	12-1

Sarartoga Results

FIRST-2 mile 3 fur; $75,000; Walsh; 4up
4 Cyber Nnja (Brgry) 3.90 2.82 2.10
5 Lynchs Knck (IRE) (Trny) 4.50 3.22
7 Philip My Dear (Power) 2.70
Scr: Feeling Festive (IRE), Lord Flintshire
● $1 Exacta (4-5) $10.05 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-5-7-2) $8.32 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-5-7) $12.05

SECOND-5½ fur; $62,000; md cl($55,0); 2YOF
4 Busnss Mth (Ortz) 5.76 3.28 2.62
2 Juneau (Saez) 4.02 2.98
6 My Bestie (Bridgmohan) 5.84
Scr: Madison Moon, Quality Spring
● $1 Daily Double (4-4) $7.81 ● $1 Exacta (4-2) $9.05 ● $1 Quinella (2-4) $4.64 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-2-6-5) $32.44 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-2-6) $34.44 ● $1 Consolation Double (4-1) $2.25

THIRD-5½ fur; $62,000; md cl($55,0); 3upf
7 Lots of Ksss (Ortz) 5.46 3.54 2.82
10 Bengalese (Rivera) 24.64 14.36
8 Sweet Mackenzie (Elliott) 7.84
Scr: Free Spin Kim
● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (4-1-1) $1.89 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (4-1-7) $5.15 ● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (4-4-1) $6.98 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-4-7) $16.92 ● $1 Daily Double (4-7) $9.93 ● $1 Exacta (7-10) $109.02 ● $0.1 Superfecta (7-10-8-2) $613.80 ● $0.5 Trifecta (7-10-8) $388.77 ● $1 Consolation Double (4-1) $2.91

Winner picked by Vic C

FOURTH-6½ fur; $76,000; clm($45,000); 4up
4 Classc Tme (Saez) 6.60 4.38 3.24
7 Paradse Valley (SntnJr.) 9.76 4.90
3 Run Classic (Castellano) 3.44
Scr: Power Attack
● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (4-1-4) $12.48 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-7-4) $35.57 ● $1 Daily Double (7-4) $15.20 ● $1 Exacta (4-7) $30.63 ● $1 Quinella (4-7) $17.09 ● $0.1 Superfecta (4-7-3-6) $68.04 ● $0.5 Trifecta (4-7-3) $54.60

Double picked by Vic C

FIFTH-1 1/16 mile; $55,000; cl($35,0); 3upf
8 Artstc Sccss (Ortz) 6.54 3.70 2.96
6 Greyjoy (Davis) 4.24 3.38
3 Give Her Another (Gaffalione) 5.12
Scr: SerenaFly, SoVain, Amelia'sEcho, Adrian
● $1 Pick 3 (7-4-8) $39.18 ● $1 Daily Double (4-8) $13.68 ● $1 Exacta (8-6) $11.73 ● $0.1 Superfecta (8-6-3-2) $26.26 ● $0.5 Trifecta (8-6-3) $30.56

SIXTH-5½ fur; $90,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
10 Yolo Train (Ortiz) 5.74 3.52 2.94
5 Sea Isle City (Saez) 8.52 6.06
9 Decimal Point (Lezcano) 9.88
Scr: Split the Blanket, Southern Kiss, Miss Ma'am, Cayenne, Night Sky, Mi Gordita, Early Autumn
● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (4-8-2) $13.38 ● $1 Pick 3 (4-8-10) $44.71 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (7-4-8-10) $60.24 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (4-7-4-8-10) $208.32 ● $1 Daily Double (8-10) $12.54 ● $1 Exacta (10-5) $21.62 ● $0.1 Superfecta (10-5-9-6) $360.42 ● $0.5 Trifecta (10-5-9) $188.35 ● $1 Consolation Double (8-2) $3.16

SEVENTH-6 fur; $115,000; mdn spl wt; 2YO F
2 Baby Beth (Frnco) 17.44 7.88 5.70
3 Under the Moon (Ortiz) 4.66 3.58
9 Davidson (Gaffalione) 7.30
Scr: Chic in Motion, Hidden Melody
● $1 Consolation Pick 3 (8-2-2) $25.91 ● $1 Pick 3 (8-10-2) $113.38 ● $1 Daily Double (10-2) $30.09 ● $1 Exacta (2-3) $29.34 ● $0.1 Superfecta (2-3-9-4) $163.61 ● $0.5 Trifecta (2-3-9) $127.86

EIGHTH-1 mile 1 fur; $120,000; alw; 3upf
1 Answrd Pryrs (Alvrd) 5.10 3.68 2.92
3 Higher Force (Elliott) 7.92 5.24
5 Sailaway (Santana,Jr.) 4.08
● $1 Grand Slam (3/6/8-5/9/10-2/3/9-1) $39.00 ● $1 Pick 3 (10-2-1) $126.46 ● $1 Daily Double (2-1) $38.08 ● $1 Exacta (1-3) $24.06 ● $0.1 Superfecta (1-3-5-6) $72.83 ● $0.5 Trifecta (1-3-5) $55.27

NINTH-1 mile; $71,000; md cl($85,0); 3upf
5 Gum (Velazquez) 6.00 3.08 2.52
7 Burbn Mlk Pnch (Crmch) 3.64 2.60
9 Mistborn (Gaffalione) 2.82
Scr: Prairie Princess, Resort (FR), Tavern Talk
● $1 Pick 6 (4-8-10-2-1-5) $51.47 ● $1 Pick 6 (4-8-10-2-1-5) $5377.67 ● $1 Pick 3 (2-1-5) $95.00 ● $0.5 Pick 4 (10-2-1-5) $147.46 ● $0.5 Pick 5 (8-10-2-1-5) $556.59 ● $1 Daily Double (1-5) $9.00 ● $1 Exacta (5-7) $8.19 ● $0.1 Superfecta (5-7-9-6) $11.99 ● $0.5 Trifecta (5-7-9) $8.54

AL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Tampa Bay	74	46	.617	—	—	9-1	W-9	41-18	33-28
Yankees	68	52	.567	6	+8	6-4	W-2	31-26	37-26
Boston	64	56	.533	10	+4	5-5	L-5	29-31	35-25
Toronto	59	63	.484	16	2	7-3	W-3	31-31	28-32
Baltimore	58	63	.479	16½	2½	4-6	L-1	32-30	26-33

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Chicago	62	57	.521	—	—	4-6	W-1	37-23	25-34
Minnesota	60	62	.492	3½	1	4-6	W-1	32-28	28-34
Detroit	59	61	.492	3½	1	7-3	L-1	31-28	28-33
Cleveland	59	62	.488	4	1½	3-7	W-1	28-31	31-31
Kansas City	49	73	.402	14½	12	3-7	L-4	29-30	20-43

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Houston	62	60	.508	—	—	5-5	W-1	30-29	32-31
Texas	60	61	.496	1½	—	5-5	L-2	32-27	28-34
Seattle	56	65	.463	5½	4½	3-7	L-6	33-29	23-36
Athletics	47	74	.388	14½	14½	2-8	L-3	21-39	26-35
Los Angeles	47	74	.388	14½	14½	5-5	W-2	27-34	20-40

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Wednesday

Yankees 10, Seattle 5
Minnesota 7, Baltimore 5
Tampa Bay 8, Athletics 4
Houston 2, San Francisco 1
Cleveland 6, Detroit 4
Toronto 6, Boston 4
White Sox 5, Cincinnati 0
L.A. Dodgers 4, Kansas City 2
L.A. Angels 5, Texas 2

Thursday

Seattle at **Yankees**, 1:35
Cleveland at Detroit, 1:10
Cincinnati at White Sox, 2:10
Boston at Toronto, 3:07
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 7:30
Texas at L.A. Angels, 10:07

NL Standings

East	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Atlanta	73	48	.603	—	—	7-3	W-2	41-21	32-27
Philadelphia	64	58	.525	9½	—	5-5	L-2	32-30	32-28
Miami	62	59	.512	11	1½	6-4	W-4	38-24	24-35
Washington	59	63	.484	14½	5	4-6	L-2	26-36	33-27
Mets	53	69	.434	20½	11	6-4	L-2	25-34	28-35

Central	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Milwaukee	74	47	.612	—	—	5-5	L-3	41-22	33-25
Chicago	71	50	.587	3	+7½	8-2	W-3	35-24	36-26
St. Louis	61	60	.504	13	2½	7-3	W-2	32-34	29-26
Cincinnati	57	62	.479	16	5½	5-5	L-1	29-31	28-31
Pittsburgh	58	64	.475	16½	6	2-8	L-3	30-30	28-34

West	W	L	Pct.	GB	*WGB	L10	Streak	Home	Away
Los Angeles	73	48	.603	—	—	4-6	W-3	36-23	37-25
San Diego	65	57	.533	8½	+1	7-3	W-5	37-26	28-31
Arizona	64	58	.525	9½	—	5-5	L-2	36-27	28-31
San Francisco	50	71	.413	23	13½	3-7	L-1	28-31	22-40
Colorado	48	73	.397	25	15½	4-6	W-2	27-32	21-41

***WGB:** Games behind third-place team in wild-card race

Wednesday

Atlanta 6, **Mets** 3
St. Louis 7, Philadelphia 1
Houston 2, San Francisco 1
Colorado 6, Arizona 4
San Diego 4, Milwaukee 3, 11 inn.
Miami 8, Pittsburgh 2
Cubs 12, Washington 6
White Sox 5, Cincinnati 0
L.A. Dodgers 4, Kansas City 2

Thursday

Pittsburgh at Miami, 1:10
Cincinnati at White Sox, 2:10
Cubs at Washington, 4:05
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 7:30
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10

POST SU DOKU **Puzzles on Page 34**

7	6	1	8	2	9	5	4	3
2	5	4	6	3	7	8	9	1
3	9	8	1	4	5	2	6	7
4	3	7	2	6	8	9	1	5
9	8	2	3	5	1	4	7	6
5	1	6	9	7	4	3	2	8
6	2	5	7	9	3	1	8	4
8	7	3	4	1	2	6	5	9
1	4	9	5	8	6	7	3	2

Solution to Very Easy #7,369

6	2	5	9	1	4	8	3	7
4	3	1	7	6	8	5	9	2
7	8	9	2	3	5	6	1	4
1	9	8	6	5	2	7	4	3
5	7	3	4	8	1	9	2	6
2	4	6	3	9	7	1	5	8
8	5	4	1	2	6	3	7	9
3	6	7	5	4	9	2	8	1
9	1	2	8	7	3	4	6	5

Solution to Difficult #7,159

Yankees 10, Mariners 5

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ward dh	5	0	1	0	0	0	.240
Young 2b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.262
Rivas 2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.132
Arozarena lf	4	2	1	2	1	1	.276
Canzone rf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.254
Rodríguez cf	3	1	1	1	2	0	.257
Naylor 1b	2	0	1	1	2	0	.264
Donovan 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.260
Raleigh c	2	0	1	0	2	1	.161
Emerson ss	4	0	0	0	0	4	.190
Totals	**34**	**5**	**9**	**5**	**7**	**8**	

Yankees	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Grisham cf	5	3	3	4	0	1	.222
Rice dh	4	3	2	1	1	1	.258
Jones rf	4	0	2	3	0	1	.218
García 1b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.279
Ramos lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.250
Chisholm 2b	3	1	1	1	1	1	.218
McMahon 3b	4	0	2	1	0	0	.220
Wells c	2	1	1	0	0	0	.180
Rosario ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.230
Sánchez c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.263
Lombard ss	4	2	2	0	0	1	.320
Totals	**35**	**10**	**13**	**10**	**3**	**8**	

Seattle	**301 010 000**	**—**	**5**	**9**	**0**
Yankees	**012 020 32x**	**—**	**10**	**13**	**1**

E: Lombard (1). **LOB:** Seattle 9, New York 5. **2B:** Donovan (5), McMahon (12), Wells (6), Jones 2 (6), Rice (20), Grisham (19). **HR:** Arozarena (16), off Warren; Rodríguez (19), off Warren; Canzone (19), off Warren; Grisham (14), off Miller; Grisham (15), off Davila. **RBIs:** Arozarena 2 (52), Rodríguez (52), Canzone (50), Naylor (43), McMahon (31), Jones 3 (18), Grisham 4 (50), Rice (76), Chisholm (48). **SB:** Jones (5), Rice (3). **CS:** Naylor (6). **Runners left in scoring position:** Seattle 4 (Arozarena, Donovan, Rodríguez 2); New York 4 (McMahon 2, García 2). **RISP:** Seattle 1 for 8; New York 3 for 9.

Seattle	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Miller	6.0	8	5	5	1	5	89	3.39
Speier, L, 2-3	0.2	3	3	3	2	1	22	2.93
Domínguez	0.1	0	0	0	0	0	2	4.54
Davila	1.0	2	2	2	0	2	16	4.01

Yankees	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Warren	4.0	6	5	5	4	3	81	4.42
Cruz	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	9	2.86
Hill	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	13	4.30
Blackburn, W, 4-2	1.2	0	0	0	1	0	17	1.90
Headrick, H, 19	1.0	0	0	0	0	3	15	1.47
De los Santos	1.0	2	0	0	0	1	16	0.90

T: 2:59. **A:** 41,714 (47,309).

Rays 8, Athletics 4

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Díaz dh	5	1	2	1	0	0	.302
Aranda 1b	4	1	1	0	1	2	.285
Caminero 3b	5	2	2	1	0	0	.279
Hicks c	5	1	3	3	0	0	.284
Mesa rf	4	0	0	0	1	0	.213
DeLuca lf	5	1	3	0	0	0	.273
Mullins cf	5	1	2	1	0	0	.207
Palacios 2b	3	1	1	1	1	1	.238
Walls ss	3	0	1	0	0	1	.217
Totals	**39**	**8**	**15**	**7**	**3**	**4**	

Athletics	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Walton ss	3	1	1	0	0	0	.282
Soderstrom dh	4	0	1	0	0	1	.245
Gelof 2b	4	2	2	1	0	1	.280
Cortes lf	4	0	1	2	0	1	.258
Butler rf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.207
Bolte cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.258
Muncy 3b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.213
White 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.244
Serven c	4	0	0	0	0	1	.185
Totals	**34**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**1**	**7**	

Tampa Bay	**021 400 010**	**—**	**8**	**15**	**1**
Athletics	**002 000 020**	**—**	**4**	**7**	**1**

E: Walls (8), Perkins (1). **LOB:** Tampa Bay 8, Athletics 5. **2B:** Hicks (12), DeLuca 2 (17), Mullins (9), Soderstrom (27), Cortes (14). **HR:** Hicks (16), off Perkins; Gelof (13), off Grove; Butler (9), off Grove. **RBIs:** Palacios (35), Mullins (37), Caminero (77), Hicks 3 (71), Díaz (69), Cortes 2 (32), Gelof (32), Butler (33). **SB:** Bolte (14), DeLuca (14), Mesa (6). **S:** Walls. **Runners left in scoring position:** Tampa Bay 5 (Walls, Mesa 2, Mullins 2); Athletics 3 (Cortes, Butler, White). **RISP:** Tampa Bay 6 for 19; Athletics 1 for 6.

Tampa Bay	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Rasmussen, W, 12-5	5.0	4	2	2	1	3	84	2.78
Matz	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	9	5.46
Legumina	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	18	4.01
Grove	2.0	2	2	2	0	2	27	5.14

Athletics	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Perkins, L, 2-9	5.0	12	7	6	1	2	97	7.27
Rom	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	13	2.70
Blewett	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	13	2.31
Juenger	1.0	2	1	1	1	1	18	7.30
Johnson	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	16	6.75

T: 2:45. **A:** 8,287 (14,014).

Braves 6, Mets 3

Mets	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ewing lf	3	0	1	0	1	1	.259
Lindor ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.239
Bichette 3b	4	1	1	1	0	0	.262
Benge rf	4	0	2	0	0	0	.274
Robert cf	3	1	1	1	1	1	.215
J.Young 1b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.262
Alvarez dh	4	0	0	0	0	3	.251
Baty 2b	2	0	0	0	0	2	.214
Semien ph-2b	2	0	0	0	0	0	.210
Torrens c	3	1	1	1	0	1	.232
Totals	**33**	**3**	**7**	**3**	**2**	**9**	

Atlanta	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Acuña rf	3	2	2	1	1	0	.244
Baldwin dh	4	0	3	1	0	0	.274
Olson 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.264
Albies 2b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.256
Harris cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.290
Dubón ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.264
Thomas lf	2	1	1	1	0	1	.230
Yastrzemski ph-lf	2	1	2	1	0	0	.234
Riley 3b	4	2	3	1	0	0	.225
Murphy c	3	0	1	0	0	1	.143
Totals	**34**	**6**	**12**	**5**	**1**	**5**	

Mets	**000 001 101**	**—**	**3**	**7**	**0**
Atlanta	**011 010 30x**	**—**	**6**	**12**	**0**

LOB: New York 5, Atlanta 5. **2B:** Benge (16), Riley (18), Acuña (11), Yastrzemski (16). **HR:** Torrens (5), off Mahle; Robert (6), off Dodd; Bichette (12), off Iglesias; Thomas (11), off Thornton; Yastrzemski (9), off Núñez; Riley (15), off Núñez. **RBIs:** Torrens (28), Robert (17), Bichette (61), Thomas (39), Acuña (30), Yastrzemski (34), Riley (58), Baldwin (61). **Runners left in scoring position:** New York 1 (Semien); Atlanta 2 (Riley, Olson). **RISP:** New York 0 for 3; Atlanta 3 for 7.

Mets	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Thornton, L, 3-3	6.0	7	3	3	1	2	80	2.78
Núñez	0.1	3	3	3	0	1	11	19.29
Yan	0.2	1	0	0	0	1	7	2.70
Weisenburger	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	15	0.00

Atlanta	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mahle, W, 4-9	6.0	4	1	1	0	7	93	4.64
Dodd, H, 11	1.0	1	1	1	0	1	21	2.17
Lee	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	18	1.95
Iglesias	1.0	2	1	1	1	0	22	3.02

T: 2:17. **A:** 26,415 (41,149).

Rockies 6, Diamondbacks 4

Colorado	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McCarthy cf-rf	4	0	0	0	0	0	.300
Carrigg ss-cf	5	0	1	0	0	1	.292
Rumfield 1b	4	0	1	0	1	1	.294
Goodman dh	3	1	0	0	1	1	.251
Moniak lf	4	1	1	0	0	2	.271
Castro 3b	3	2	2	1	1	0	.265
Veen rf	3	1	1	2	0	1	.333
Tovar ss	1	0	1	0	0	0	.207
Norby 2b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.200
Sullivan c	4	1	1	3	0	1	.238
Totals	**34**	**6**	**8**	**6**	**4**	**7**	

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Perdomo ss	6	1	2	0	0	0	.245
Carroll rf	4	2	2	1	1	0	.243
Moreno c	5	0	2	1	0	1	.305
Marte 2b	3	1	2	1	2	0	.252
Nootbaar dh	2	0	0	0	2	0	.219
Locklear ph-dh	1	0	1	0	0	0	.294
Arenado 3b	4	0	0	0	1	0	.242
Kepler lf	4	0	2	0	1	0	.216
Tawa 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.232
Vargas ph-1b	1	0	0	1	1	0	.268
Waldschmidt cf	3	0	0	0	2	1	.280
Totals	**36**	**4**	**11**	**4**	**10**	**3**	

Colorado	**040 200 000**	**—**	**6**	**8**	**0**
Arizona	**100 010 110**	**—**	**4**	**11**	**1**

E: Moreno (2). **LOB:** Colorado 6, Arizona 15. **2B:** Castro (18), Tovar (20), Moreno (23). **3B:** Carroll (14). **HR:** Sullivan (6), off Kelly; Veen (1), off Kelly; Carroll (18), off Bernardino. **RBIs:** Castro (49), Sullivan 3 (23), Veen 2 (2), Marte (67), Moreno (53), Vargas (56), Carroll (57). **SB:** Castro (8). **RISP:** Colorado 2 for 11; Arizona 3 for 12. **DP:** Colorado 2 (Castro, Norby, Rumfield; Castro, Norby, Rumfield); Arizona 1 (Arenado, Tawa).

Colorado	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Feltner, W, 5-6	5.0	7	2	2	3	2	93	5.59
Mushinski	0.2	1	0	0	2	0	26	2.08
Mejia, H, 8	0.1	0	1	1	2	1	18	5.44
Herget, H, 7	1.0	0	0	0	2	0	20	6.35
Bernardino, H, 10	1.0	3	1	1	0	0	26	2.72
Romno, S, 12-15	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	17	5.95

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kelly, L, 8-10	5.0	6	6	6	3	2	71	5.11
Carrillo	2.0	1	0	0	1	4	31	0.71
Abner	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	12	6.08
Garcia	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	12	2.12

T: 3:01. **A:** 17,168 (48,359).

Cardinals 7, Phillies 1

Philadelphia	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Schwarber dh	4	0	0	0	0	2	.248
Turner ss	4	0	0	0	0	0	.247
Harper rf	2	1	1	0	2	1	.254
Arraez 2b	4	0	1	1	0	0	.313
Stott 3b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.266
Marsh lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.273
De La Cruz ph-lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.321
Realmuto c	3	0	0	0	0	2	.220
Bohm 1b	3	0	2	0	0	0	.231
Crawford cf	3	0	1	0	0	0	.264
Totals	**31**	**1**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**8**	

St. Louis	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Wetherholt 2b	3	2	1	0	2	2	.245
Herrera dh	4	2	1	1	1	1	.249
Burleson 1b	3	1	2	3	0	1	.287
Walker rf	3	1	1	1	1	0	.284
Church cf	3	0	1	2	0	0	.239
Winn ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.243
Prieto 3b	2	1	1	0	0	0	.036
Jordan ph-3b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.246
Fermín lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.240
Pereira lf	1	0	1	0	0	0	.233
Crooks c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.173
Totals	**31**	**7**	**8**	**7**	**4**	**9**	

Philadelphia	**000 100 000**	**—**	**1**	**6**	**1**
St. Louis	**010 040 20x**	**—**	**7**	**8**	**0**

E: Bohm (11). **LOB:** Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 7. **2B:** Harper (23), Arraez (26), Church (10), Burleson (30), Walker (24). **RBIs:** Arraez (49), Church 2 (39), Herrera (51), Burleson 3 (84), Walker (84). **SB:** Walker (16), Wetherholt (13). **SF:** Church. **RISP:** Philadelphia 1 for 8; St. Louis 5 for 12. **DP:** Philadelphia 1 (Turner, Arraez, Bohm); St. Louis 2 (Wetherholt, Winn, Burleson; Winn, Burleson).

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Wheeler, L, 10-4	5.0	6	5	4	1	5	84	2.89
Raley	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	13	2.18
Alvarado	0.1	1	2	2	3	0	22	6.14
Shugart	1.2	1	0	0	0	2	20	4.72

St. Louis	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Leahy, W, 9-4	5.0	6	1	1	0	6	81	3.38
Bruihl	1.1	0	0	0	1	0	16	3.32
Graceffo	1.2	0	0	0	0	0	22	3.17
Gastelum	1.0	0	0	0	1	2	14	6.89

T: 2:30. **A:** 22,565 (44,494).

Astros 2, Giants 1

Houston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Peña ss	4	0	1	0	0	1	.290
Alvarez dh	3	0	1	0	1	1	.322
Paredes 3b	4	1	0	0	0	0	.254
Varsho cf	4	0	0	0	0	2	.233
Wade 1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.221
Velázquez ph	0	0	0	1	0	0	.208
Walker 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.236
C.Smith rf	3	0	0	0	0	0	.224
Trammell lf	3	1	1	0	0	2	.235
Allen 2b	2	0	1	1	0	0	.255
Vázquez c	2	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Totals	**27**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**1**	**7**	

San Francisco	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Lee rf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.293
Adames ss	3	1	1	0	1	0	.224
Kennedy 3b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.042
Eldridge 1b	3	0	0	0	1	2	.245
Devers dh	3	0	0	0	1	1	.244
Bericoto lf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.273
Gilbert cf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.235
Basabe 2b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.256
Cavanaugh c	2	0	1	0	1	0	.250
Knizner ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Koss 3b-ss	4	0	2	0	0	1	.186
Totals	**32**	**1**	**5**	**1**	**5**	**8**	

Houston	**000 000 110**	**—**	**2**	**4**	**0**
San Francisco	**100 000 000**	**—**	**1**	**5**	**1**

E: Bericoto (2). **LOB:** Houston 2, San Francisco 9. **2B:** Peña (13). **3B:** Trammell (2). **RBIs:** Velázquez (13), Allen (12), Bericoto (10). **SB:** Koss (2). **SF:** Velázquez, Allen. **S:** Vázquez. **RISP:** Houston 0 for 4; San Francisco 1 for 7. **Runners moved up:** Paredes. **GIDP:** Paredes. **DP:** San Francisco 2 (Koss, Basabe, Eldridge; Koss, Adames, Basabe, Koss).

Houston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
King	0.2	0	1	1	2	1	19	3.96
De Los Santos	0.1	1	0	0	1	0	9	4.15
Imai	3.0	3	0	0	2	3	55	5.29
Blubaugh	1.2	1	0	0	0	2	18	3.48
Okert, W, 6-1	1.1	0	0	0	0	0	17	2.11
Abreu, H, 8	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	12	4.19
Hader, S, 17-17	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.96

San Francisco	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Houser	6.0	2	0	0	1	5	73	4.28
Hentges, H, 9	0.1	1	1	0	0	0	12	2.57
Winn, L, 2-3, BS, 1-4	1.2	1	1	1	0	0	16	2.98
Sanmartin	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	15	9.45

T: 2:27. **A:** 28,101 (41,915).

Dodgers 4, Royals 2

Kansas City	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Loftin 2b-rf	5	0	0	0	0	0	.240
Witt ss	5	0	2	0	0	1	.285
Caglianone 1b	4	1	1	0	0	0	.268
Perez c	2	0	1	1	0	0	.216
Maile c	1	0	0	0	0	0	.263
Marte rf	3	0	1	0	0	1	.247
Rave ph-cf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.234
Jensen dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.222
Collins lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.233
Tolbert cf	2	1	0	0	1	2	.311
Massey ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.258
J.Rojas 3b	4	0	1	1	0	1	.236
Totals	**35**	**2**	**6**	**2**	**2**	**8**	

Los Angeles	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Ohtani dh	4	1	2	2	0	1	.292
Pages cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.270
Freeman 1b	2	0	1	0	1	1	.306
Edman ph-2b	1	0	0	0	0	0	.275
Tucker rf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.239
Betts ss	3	1	2	1	1	0	.239
Muncy 3b	3	0	0	0	0	0	.249
T.Hernández lf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Feduccia c	3	1	1	1	0	1	.237
M.Rojas 2b	2	1	1	0	1	0	.289
E.Hernández 1b	0	0	0	0	0	0	.286
Totals	**28**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**6**	

Kansas City	**011 000 000**	**—**	**2**	**6**	**0**
Los Angeles	**012 010 00x**	**—**	**4**	**8**	**2**

E: Betts (5), Knack (1). **LOB:** Kansas City 9, Los Angeles 4. **2B:** Witt (25), M.Rojas (12). **HR:** Betts (15), off Lynch; Ohtani (27), off Lynch; Feduccia (3), off Black. **RBIs:** J.Rojas (9), Perez (52), Betts (39), Ohtani 2 (74), Feduccia (13). **SB:** Tolbert (17). **CS:** Pages (7). **Runners left in scoring position:** Kansas City 3 (Marte, Collins, Maile); Los Angeles 2 (T.Hernández 2). **RISP:** Kansas City 2 for 7; Los Angeles 1 for 4.

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lynch, L, 4-4	2.1	3	3	3	0	3	39	2.88
Cuas	1.2	2	0	0	1	2	30	1.69
Black	3.0	3	1	1	2	1	44	3.51
Kimbrel	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	10	4.67

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lauer, W, 7-6	6.1	4	2	1	2	6	112	4.67
Knack, S, 1-1	2.2	2	0	0	0	2	36	5.87

T: 2:31. **A:** 47,578 (56,000).

This Date In Sports

Aug. 13

1919 — Upset scores a win against Man o' War in the Sanford Memorial Stakes at Saratoga. The defeat is Big Red's only loss in 21 starts.

1933 — Gene Sarazen wins the PGA Championship by defeating Willie Goggin 5 and 4 in the final round.

1935 — The first roller derby begins in Chicago by promoter Leo Seltzer.

1979 — Lou Brock of the St. Louis Cardinals reaches 3,000 career hits with an infield hit off Chicago Cubs pitcher Dennis Lamp.

1987 — Jackie Joyner-Kersee equals the world record in the women's long jump — 24 feet, 5½ inches — in the Pan American Games at Indianapolis. She matches the mark set in 1986 by Heike Drescher of East Germany.

1995 — Cuba's Ana Quirot, severely burned in a 1993 kitchen accident, wins the 800 meters at the world championships at Gothenburg, Sweden.

1995 — Steve Elkington shoots a final-round 64 and birdies the first playoff hole to beat Colin Montgomerie and win the PGA Championship. The 64 is the lowest final round by a PGA Championship winner.

1997 — Wilson Kipketer topples Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old record in the 800 meters, finishing in 1 minute, 41.24 seconds in Zurich, Switzerland. Haile Gebrselassie also shatters his own 5,000 record with a time of 12 minutes, 41.86 seconds.

2002 — Natalie Coughlin breaks the 100-meter backstroke world record, timed in 59.58 seconds at the U.S. national championships. She is the first American to hold the world record since Catherine Ferguson in 1966.

2008 — Michael Phelps swims into history as the winningest Olympic athlete with his 10th and 11th career gold medals and five world records in five events at the Beijing Games. He wins the 200-meter butterfly and swims leadoff for the U.S. 800 freestyle relay team.

Marlins 8, Pirates 2

Pittsburgh	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Mangum cf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.295
Lowe 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Reynolds lf	3	0	0	0	1	1	.264
Horwitz 1b	4	0	0	0	0	0	.261
Gonzales 3b	3	2	2	0	1	0	.307
Simon dh	4	0	2	0	0	0	.333
Valdez rf	3	0	1	1	0	0	.246
Gonzalez ss	3	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Davis c	3	0	0	0	0	1	.174
Totals	**31**	**2**	**6**	**1**	**2**	**5**	

Miami	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Edwards 2b	4	0	1	2	0	1	.283
Lopez ss	5	0	0	0	0	0	.314
Conine 1b-rf	2	3	2	1	3	0	.276
Hernández lf	3	2	1	2	2	1	.225
Marsee cf	5	1	1	0	0	0	.205
A.Ramírez dh	5	1	2	1	0	2	.244
Caissie rf	1	0	0	0	0	0	.227
Sanoja ph-3b	2	1	1	0	1	0	.276
Jiménez 3b-1b	3	0	0	1	0	0	.210
Mack c	2	0	1	1	2	1	.234
Navarreto c	0	0	0	0	0	0	.111
Totals	**32**	**8**	**9**	**8**	**8**	**5**	

Pittsburgh 010 100 000 — 2 6 0
Miami 014 102 00x — 8 9 1

E: Lopez (18). **LOB:** Pittsburgh 5, Miami 10. **2B:** Gonzales (21), Conine (6), A.Ramírez (6). **HR:** Conine (13), off Bachar; Hernández (17), off Bachar. **RBIs:** Valdez (39), Edwards 2 (46), A.Ramírez (15), Jiménez (14), Mack (35), Conine (27), Hernández 2 (46). **SF:** Valdez, Edwards. **Runners left in scoring position:** Pittsburgh 2 (Davis, Valdez); Miami 4 (Lopez 3, A.Ramírez). **RISP:** Pittsburgh 0 for 4; Miami 2 for 9. **DP:** Miami 1 (Lopez, Edwards, Jiménez).

Pittsburgh	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Mlodzinski, L, 6-5	2.1	5	4	4	3	1	59	3.79
Sisk	0.2	0	1	1	2	0	21	2.66
Bachar	3.0	3	3	3	1	1	46	5.14
Yates	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	18	3.62
Doval	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	25	4.23

Miami	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Junk, W, 6-7	6.0	4	2	1	1	2	81	4.41
Zuber	1.0	1	0	0	0	1	16	3.63
Faucher	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	8	4.26
Vodnik	1.0	1	0	0	1	1	21	5.27

T: 2:47. **A:** 7,441 (37,446).

Blue Jays 6, Red Sox 4

Boston	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Yoshida dh	4	0	0	0	0	1	.265
Rafaela cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.286
Rutschman c	3	0	0	0	1	1	.249
Contreras 1b	3	2	1	1	1	0	.280
Abreu rf	4	1	1	0	0	0	.254
Durbin 3b	4	1	2	1	0	1	.249
Duran lf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.203
Monasterio ss	2	0	1	1	1	0	.270
Sogard 2b	4	0	1	0	0	0	.259
Totals	**32**	**4**	**8**	**4**	**3**	**5**	

Toronto	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
McAdoo 3b	5	0	2	0	0	2	.206
Bateman rf-lf-rf	5	0	1	0	0	0	.259
V.Guerrero 1b	5	1	2	0	0	0	.262
Kirk c	4	0	1	0	0	1	.261
Valenzuela pr-c	0	1	0	0	0	0	.232
Okamoto dh	3	2	2	1	1	0	.228
Giménez ss	3	1	1	0	1	1	.240
Clement 2b	3	1	1	2	1	0	.282
Sánchez lf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.266
Lukes rf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.267
Springer ph	0	0	0	1	0	0	.235
Smith lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.216
Straw cf	4	0	2	2	0	0	.227
Totals	**34**	**6**	**12**	**6**	**4**	**5**	

Boston 000 010 003 — 4 8 1
Toronto 010 000 05x — 6 12 0

E: Contreras (5). **LOB:** Boston 5, Toronto 9. **2B:** Abreu (24), Duran (13), Okamoto (16), Straw (13). **HR:** Contreras (24), off Soriano. **RBIs:** Contreras (71), Durbin (55), Duran (61), Monasterio (32), Clement 2 (42), Okamoto (71), Springer (37), Straw 2 (21). **SB:** Clement (5). **SF:** Monasterio, Springer. **Runners left in scoring position:** Boston 3 (Rafaela, Sogard, Contreras); Toronto 3 (Straw, Bateman, V.Guerrero). **RISP:** Boston 2 for 6; Toronto 4 for 11. **DP:** Boston 1 (Abreu, Contreras, Abreu); Toronto 1 (Giménez, V.Guerrero).

Boston	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Suarez	5.0	6	1	1	1	2	81	3.25
Slaten	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	21	4.60
Miller	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	17	2.43
T.Guerrero, L, 1-2	0.0	3	5	4	2	0	20	3.19
Gamboa	1.0	2	0	0	0	0	9	1.93

Toronto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Soriano	6.0	4	1	1	2	4	90	3.16
Fluharty	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	13	3.94
Rogers, W, 2-2	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	11	1.64
Waldron	0.1	3	3	3	1	1	16	7.46
Varland, S, 26-27	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	5	1.30

T: 2:41. **A:** 42,888 (39,150).

Cubs 12, Nationals 6

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crow-Armstrong cf	6	1	1	1	0	3	.284
Suzuki rf	4	2	2	2	1	1	.273
Bregman dh	3	3	3	7	2	0	.256
Kelly c	4	0	0	0	1	2	.261
Busch 1b	5	0	1	0	0	2	.245
Hoerner 2b	5	0	1	0	0	0	.262
Taylor lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.238
Happ ph-lf	3	1	1	0	0	0	.218
Ramirez 3b	4	2	2	0	1	1	.302
Swanson ss	4	3	2	2	1	1	.216
Totals	**40**	**12**	**13**	**12**	**6**	**11**	

Washington	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Crews rf	5	0	0	0	0	1	.214
Chaparro 1b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.225
Ortiz ph-1b	2	1	1	1	0	0	.308
House 3b	5	1	1	0	0	1	.236
Abrams ss	3	0	0	0	2	3	.284
Ford c	5	2	2	1	0	0	.227
Pinckney lf	2	1	1	0	1	0	.333
Tena ph-lf	1	1	1	1	0	0	.239
Young cf	5	0	2	0	0	0	.248
Lile dh	4	0	2	3	0	1	.247
Nuñez 2b	4	0	1	0	0	1	.230
Totals	**38**	**6**	**11**	**6**	**4**	**8**	

Chicago 000 045 030 — 12 13 2
Washington 010 031 001 — 6 11 1

E: Ramirez (2), Hoerner (5), Chaparro (1). **LOB:** Chicago 7, Washington 10. **2B:** Crow-Armstrong (24), Swanson (16), Ramirez (9), Ford (5). **HR:** Bregman (14), off Bird; Bregman (15), off Cruz; Swanson (18), off Williams; Bregman (16), off Williams; Ortiz (3), off Assad; Tena (6), off Assad. **RBIs:** Crow-Armstrong (73), Bregman 7 (61), Swanson 2 (66), Suzuki 2 (70), Lile 3 (64), Ford (7), Ortiz (5), Tena (21). **SB:** Ramirez 2 (7), House (2), Lile (12). **RISP:** Chicago 4 for 11; Washington 4 for 10. **DP:** Chicago 1 (Kelly, Busch); Washington 1 (Abrams, Nuñez, Chaparro).

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Peterson, W, 7-7	5.0	9	4	3	3	6	90	5.35
Assad, S, 2-2	4.0	2	2	2	1	2	66	3.59

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Kent	4.0	3	3	3	5	6	78	6.75
Bird	1.1	1	1	1	0	1	25	5.79
Cosgrove, L, 0-2	0.1	2	3	1	0	1	17	3.27
Cruz	0.1	2	2	2	1	0	13	4.50
Williams	3.0	5	3	3	0	3	63	2.38

T: 3:06. **A:** 21,116 (41,376).

Guardians 6, Tigers 4

Cleveland	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Kwan cf-lf	3	1	1	0	2	0	.268
DeLauter dh	5	1	2	0	0	1	.283
Ramírez 3b	2	1	0	0	2	0	.233
Adell rf	5	1	1	2	0	0	.235
Halpin cf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.219
Martínez lf-rf	5	1	3	1	0	1	.242
Hoskins 1b	3	0	0	0	0	1	.179
Lowe ph-1b	2	0	0	0	0	1	.266
Genao 2b	5	1	1	1	0	0	.333
Hedges c	2	0	1	1	3	0	.272
Rocchio ss	5	0	1	0	0	1	.251
Totals	**37**	**6**	**10**	**5**	**7**	**5**	

Detroit	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Torres dh	5	1	2	1	0	1	.260
Dingler c	5	1	0	0	0	2	.267
McGonigle 3b-ss	3	1	0	0	2	0	.286
Lee 2b	3	1	1	0	0	0	.268
Keith ph-3b	1	0	0	0	0	1	.265
Torkelson 1b	3	0	1	2	1	2	.229
Malgeri lf	2	0	0	0	0	1	.255
McKinstry ph-lf-rf	2	0	1	0	0	0	.223
Clark cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.289
Báez ss-2b	4	0	1	0	0	2	.283
Julks rf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Outman ph-lf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.172
Totals	**35**	**4**	**7**	**3**	**3**	**11**	

Cleveland 200 020 200 — 6 10 1
Detroit 201 000 010 — 4 7 1

E: Ramírez (8), McGonigle (11). **LOB:** Cleveland 12, Detroit 8. **2B:** Martínez 2 (16), Genao (1), DeLauter (22), Lee (11), Torkelson (21). **HR:** Adell (18), off Valdez; Torres (8), off Griffin. **RBIs:** Martínez (43), Adell 2 (66), Genao (3), Hedges (19), Torkelson 2 (62), Torres (31). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cleveland 4 (Martínez, Hoskins, Ramírez, DeLauter); Detroit 4 (Malgeri, McGonigle, Dingler, Clark). **RISP:** Cleveland 3 for 11; Detroit 1 for 7. **DP:** Detroit 1 (Lee, Báez, Torkelson).

Cleveland	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Griffin, W, 13-4	5.0	4	3	1	1	3	83	3.25
Holdrmn, H, 9	1.1	0	0	0	1	1	17	2.08
Sabrwski, H, 21	0.2	0	0	0	0	2	11	3.55
Gaddis, H, 23	0.2	1	1	1	1	2	21	3.60
Smith, S, 31-36	1.1	2	0	0	0	3	38	2.30

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Valdez, L, 7-8	5.2	6	4	4	5	3	102	4.26
Madden	0.2	1	1	1	0	0	17	2.48
De Jesús	1.0	3	1	1	0	1	20	3.72
Rainey	1.2	0	0	0	2	1	24	0.00

T: 3:00. **A:** 31,400 (41,083).

White Sox 5, Reds 0

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
De La Cruz ss	4	0	0	0	0	1	.268
Stewart dh	4	0	2	0	0	1	.256
Bleday lf	4	0	0	0	0	1	.220
Suárez 3b	4	0	0	0	0	3	.204
Toglia 1b	3	0	0	0	0	3	.200
Rodríguez rf	1	0	0	0	1	0	.111
Myers ph-cf	0	0	0	0	1	0	.254
Trevino c	2	0	0	0	0	1	.237
Stephenson ph-c	1	0	0	0	0	1	.247
Friedl cf	2	0	0	0	0	0	.163
Marte ph-rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.199
McLain 2b	2	0	0	0	1	1	.194
Totals	**28**	**0**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**13**	

Chicago	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Antonacci 2b	5	0	3	0	0	0	.278
Murakami 1b	3	0	0	0	1	0	.235
Benintendi dh	3	0	0	0	0	1	.244
Grichuk ph-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.260
B.Montgomery rf	4	0	1	0	0	0	.230
C.Montgomery 3b	3	2	1	0	1	1	.214
Meidroth ss	4	1	2	2	0	1	.276
Peters lf	3	1	1	0	1	2	.264
Doyle cf	4	0	1	0	0	1	.225
Romo c	4	1	2	2	0	0	.136
Totals	**34**	**5**	**11**	**4**	**3**	**6**	

Cincinnati 000 000 000 — 0 2 0
Chicago 001 002 02x — 5 11 0

LOB: Cincinnati 4, Chicago 8. **2B:** Antonacci (17), Peters (23). **HR:** Romo (6), off Lowder; Meidroth (12), off Garcia. **RBIs:** Romo 2 (13), Meidroth 2 (48). **SB:** Antonacci (15). **CS:** McLain (3). **Runners left in scoring position:** Cincinnati 0; Chicago 6 (Benintendi 3, Antonacci, Romo, B.Montgomery). **RISP:** Cincinnati 0 for 0; Chicago 1 for 9. **DP:** Cincinnati 1 (De La Cruz, McLain, Toglia).

Cincinnati	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Lowder, L, 4-8	5.1	7	2	2	1	4	94	5.15
Garcia	0.2	2	1	1	0	1	14	3.04
Moll	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	16	4.18
Marinaccio	1.0	1	2	2	2	1	23	5.37

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Castillo, W, 4-9	7.0	1	0	0	2	10	104	4.96
Smith, H, 1	1.0	0	0	0	1	3	15	0.00
Brazobán	1.0	1	0	0	0	0	16	2.50

T: 2:22. **A:** 24,099 (40,241).

Twins 7, Orioles 5

Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Henderson ss	3	1	0	0	2	0	.214
Alonso 1b	3	1	2	0	1	0	.259
Holliday 2b	4	0	0	1	0	1	.241
O'Neill dh	4	1	1	0	0	1	.216
Beavers lf	3	1	1	3	0	2	.239
Mayo ph	1	0	0	0	0	1	.214
J.Jackson lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.232
Encarnacion-Strand 3b	4	0	0	0	0	1	.254
Taveras rf	4	1	1	1	0	2	.225
Franklin cf	2	0	1	0	2	1	.143
Narváez c	3	0	1	0	0	0	.180
Cowser ph	1	0	0	0	0	0	.211
Totals	**32**	**5**	**7**	**5**	**5**	**9**	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Larnach lf	5	1	1	1	0	1	.270
Martin lf	0	0	0	0	0	0	.242
Lewis 1b	5	1	2	1	0	1	.245
Bell dh	5	1	3	1	0	1	.255
Clemens 2b	4	1	1	1	1	1	.230
Lee 3b	4	1	2	0	0	0	.247
Keaschall cf	3	0	0	1	0	1	.263
Caratini c	4	1	2	1	0	0	.229
Roden rf	3	1	3	1	1	0	.236
Kreidler ss	4	0	0	0	0	2	.231
Totals	**37**	**7**	**14**	**7**	**2**	**7**	

Baltimore 103 000 001 — 5 7 0
Minnesota 104 020 00x — 7 14 0

LOB: Baltimore 5, Minnesota 9. **2B:** Lewis 2 (19), Roden 2 (3). **HR:** Beavers (3), off Matthews; Taveras (7), off Gómez. **RBIs:** Holliday (22), Beavers 3 (22), Taveras (43), Bell (72), Clemens (56), Keaschall (35), Caratini (38), Roden (10), Larnach (42), Lewis (43). **SF:** Keaschall. **Runners left in scoring position:** Baltimore 3 (Henderson, Holliday 2); Minnesota 5 (Keaschall 2, Larnach 2, Bell). **RISP:** Baltimore 1 for 4; Minnesota 7 for 15.

Baltimore	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Baz, L, 4-12	3.0	9	5	5	1	2	65	4.00
Sanders	1.1	4	2	2	0	1	30	6.91
Hiraldo	1.2	1	0	0	0	3	21	5.87
Hoppe	1.0	0	0	0	1	1	13	5.28
Suárez	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4.14

Minnesota	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Matthews, W, 6-8	5.0	6	4	4	2	4	94	5.34
Morris, H, 19	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	18	3.04
Hoffman, H, 14	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	24	3.81
Minter, H, 3	1.0	0	0	0	0	2	9	2.25
Gómez, S, 17-17	1.0	1	1	1	1	0	11	3.38

T: 2:41. **A:** 20,160 (38,544).

Padres 4, Brewers 3, 11 inn.

Milwaukee	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Chourio lf	5	0	0	0	1	2	.275
Turang 2b	5	0	1	1	1	3	.268
Vaughn 1b	4	0	0	0	0	2	.295
Lara rf	1	0	0	0	0	1	.233
Bauers rf-1b	4	0	1	0	1	0	.268
Contreras dh	3	0	0	0	2	0	.259
Bae pr-dh	0	1	0	0	0	0	.500
Sánchez c	4	1	2	2	1	2	.230
Lockridge cf	2	0	0	0	0	2	.280
Mitchell ph-cf	2	0	0	0	1	1	.252
Hamilton ss	4	0	0	0	1	1	.231
Ortiz 3b	3	1	1	0	2	1	.241
Totals	**37**	**3**	**5**	**3**	**10**	**15**	

San Diego	AB	R	H	BI	BB	SO	Avg
Rengifo lf	4	0	1	0	1	0	.241
Cronenworth 2b	4	1	1	1	1	2	.218
Machado 3b	5	0	0	0	0	0	.213
France 1b	4	0	2	0	0	1	.295
Song pr	0	1	0	0	0	0	.207
Merrill cf	4	0	1	1	0	1	.247
Hays rf	3	0	0	0	0	1	.250
Campusano c	2	0	1	1	0	0	.314
Sheets dh	2	0	0	0	1	0	.211
Bowen pr-dh	1	0	0	0	0	0	.147
Bogaerts ss	4	1	1	1	0	0	.221
Fermin c	2	0	0	0	0	2	.194
Tatis ph-rf	0	1	0	0	2	0	.281
Totals	**35**	**4**	**7**	**4**	**5**	**7**	

Milwaukee 011 000 000 01 — 3 5 1
San Diego 001 000 010 02 — 4 7 2

Two outs when winning run scored. **E:** Hamilton (8), Merrill (2), Rodriguez (2). **LOB:** Milwaukee 13, San Diego 8. **2B:** Sánchez (8), Merrill (20). **HR:** Sánchez (10), off Ray; Bogaerts (10), off May. **RBIs:** Sánchez 2 (29), Turang (76), Bogaerts (42), Cronenworth (19), Merrill (63), Campusano (20). **SB:** Tatis 2 (28), Hamilton (22), Bowen (5), Mitchell (12), Song (12). **CS:** Turang (5). **SF:** Merrill. **RISP:** Milwaukee 2 for 15; San Diego 2 for 11.

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
May	7.0	4	1	1	2	6	83	4.13
Patrick, H, 7	0.2	0	1	1	2	0	18	3.40
Ashby, BS, 0-6	0.2	2	0	0	0	1	24	3.53
Megill	1.2	0	0	0	1	0	15	2.49
Senzatela, L, 9-4, BS, 3-9	0.2	1	2	1	0	0	15	3.90

San Diego	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	NP	ERA
Ray	4.0	2	2	2	3	4	84	3.28
Rodriguez	2.0	1	0	0	1	3	38	2.13
Estrada	1.0	0	0	0	0	1	16	3.29
Hart	1.0	0	0	0	2	2	23	4.10
Miller	1.0	0	0	0	2	1	23	0.88
Morejon, W, 9-2	2.0	2	1	0	2	4	35	2.76

: 3:46. **A:** 36,072 (40,222).

NFL Exhibition

Thursday

Detroit at Cincinnati, 7pm
Green Bay at Pittsburgh, 7pm
Indianapolis at New England, 7:30pm
Arizona at Las Vegas, 8pm
L.A. Chargers at Houston, 8pm
Tennessee at San Francisco, 9pm

Friday

Tampa Bay at **Jets**, 7pm
Denver at Atlanta, 7pm
Miami at Washington, 7pm

Saturday

Minnesota at **Giants**, 1pm
Carolina at Buffalo, 1pm
Cleveland at Chicago, 1pm
Jacksonville at New Orleans, 4pm
L.A. Rams at Kansas City, 4pm
Philadelphia at Baltimore, 7pm
Dallas at Seattle, 8pm

Tennis

ATP National Bank Open

At IGA Stadium; Montreal; Purse: $9,415,725; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; (seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles - Semifinals
Brandon Nakashima (28), United States, def. Rafael Jodar (20), Spain, 7-6 (3), 6-4.
Ben Shelton (5), United States, def. Learner Tien (12), United States, 6-2, 6-3.

WTA World Tour National Bank Open

At Sobeys Stadium; Toronto; Purse: $7,433,076; Surface: Hardcourt outdoor; (seedings in parentheses):
Women's Singles - Semifinals
Iga Swiatek (7), Poland, def. Elina Svitolina (9), Ukraine, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.
Elena Rybakina (2), Kazakhstan, def. Coco Gauff (4), United States, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2

MLS

EAST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	12	2	4	40	35	14
Inter Miami CF	11	2	5	38	45	32
New England	9	6	3	30	28	23
Chicago	9	6	2	29	32	23
NYCFC	7	6	5	26	31	24
Cincinnati	7	6	5	26	45	44
Charlotte FC	7	7	4	25	29	27
Red Bulls	7	7	4	25	29	39
D.C. United	5	5	8	23	26	29
Orlando City	6	10	2	20	30	47
Columbus	5	8	5	20	26	28
Toronto FC	3	7	8	17	24	32
Philadelphia	4	10	4	16	25	33
CF Montréal	4	10	4	16	24	35
Atlanta	3	12	3	12	19	33

WEST	W	L	D	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	10	3	4	34	38	17
Los Angeles FC	10	5	4	34	35	19
San Jose	10	5	3	33	37	24
Houston	10	6	2	32	27	24
Real Salt Lake	8	6	3	27	29	25
FC Dallas	7	5	6	27	32	25
St Louis City	7	6	5	26	24	24
Portland	7	8	3	24	33	33
Seattle FC	7	7	3	24	20	22
Minn. United	6	6	6	24	20	25
Colorado	7	10	1	22	27	25
LA Galaxy	5	7	7	22	24	29
San Diego FC	5	7	6	21	32	29
Austin FC	4	9	5	17	22	36
Sporting K.C.	4	12	2	14	18	46

Note: 3 pts. for win, 1 for tie

Saturday

Red Bulls at Atlanta, 7:30pm
Columbus at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
D.C. United at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Cincinnati at Orlando City, 7:30pm
New England at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
LA Galaxy at Houston, 8:30pm
Miami at Nashville, 8:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Colorado, 9:30pm
Minnesota at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
San Diego FC at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
St Louis City at San Jose, 10:30pm

Sunday

Philadelphia at **NYCFC**, 6pm
Portland at Chicago, 6pm
FC Dallas at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Vancouver at Seattle FC, 10:30pm

Wednesday, August 19

NYCFC at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Nashville at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
CF Montréal at Columbus, 7:30pm
New England at D.C. United, 7:30pm
Chicago at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Miami at Philadelphia, 7:30pm
Charlotte FC at Toronto FC, 7:30pm
St Louis City at Sporting K.C., 8pm
Atlanta at Minnesota, 8:30pm
Los Angeles FC at Colorado, 9:30pm
FC Dallas at Salt Lake, 9:30pm
Austin FC at Seattle FC, 9:30pm
San Jose at LA Galaxy, 10:30pm
San Diego FC at Portland, 10:30pm
Houston at Vancouver, 10:30pm

Saturday, August 22

Chicago at **Red Bulls**, 7:30pm
D.C. United at Charlotte FC, 7:30pm
Seattle FC at Cincinnati, 7:30pm
Toronto FC at Miami, 7:30pm
LA Galaxy at CF Montréal, 7:30pm
Salt Lake at Orlando City, 7:30pm
Philadelphia at Austin FC, 8:30pm
Columbus at Nashville, 8:30pm
Houston at St Louis City, 8:30pm
FC Dallas at Vancouver, 9:30pm
Portland at Los Angeles FC, 10:30pm
Colorado at San Diego FC, 10:30pm
Minnesota at San Jose, 10:30pm

Sunday, August 23

NYCFC at New England, 4:30pm
Sporting K.C. at Atlanta, 7pm

WNBA

East	W	L	Pct.	GB
Indiana	21	12	.636	—
Atlanta	20	12	.625	½
Washington	19	13	.594	1½
Liberty	20	14	.588	1½
Chicago	12	21	.364	9
Toronto	10	23	.303	11
Connecticut	8	23	.258	12

West	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Minnesota	27	7	.794	—
Golden State	23	9	.719	3
Las Vegas	23	11	.676	4
Dallas	20	14	.588	7
Portland	13	19	.406	13
Los Angeles	12	20	.375	14
Phoenix	13	22	.371	14½
Seattle	7	28	.200	20½

x-clinched playoff spot

Wednesday

Dallas 94, Toronto 88
Chicago at Golden State, (n)
Minnesota at Portland, (n)

Thursday

Los Angeles at **Liberty**, 8pm
Atlanta at Connecticut, 7pm
Washington at Las Vegas, 10pm

Friday

Dallas at Indiana, 7:30pm
Portland at Seattle, 10pm

Saturday

Liberty at Connecticut, 1pm
Los Angeles at Washington, 7:30pm
Minnesota at Las Vegas, 8pm

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Gotham FC	**12**	**3**	**4**	**40**	**24**	**12**
Washington	11	5	3	36	29	17
Utah Royals FC	10	6	3	33	32	21
San Diego	10	7	2	32	24	20
Portland	9	6	4	31	32	28
North Carolina	9	6	3	30	32	26
Kansas City	9	7	3	30	30	26
Angel City	7	7	3	24	26	19
Seattle	7	7	3	24	22	23
Denver Summit FC	6	7	5	23	24	24
Orlando	7	10	2	23	23	29
Boston Legacy FC	5	9	5	20	22	28
Houston	5	8	5	20	20	26
Bay FC	5	9	4	19	18	24
Louisville	5	11	2	17	24	35
Chicago	4	13	1	13	9	33

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday
Kansas City at Gotham FC, 8pm
Denver Summit FC at San Diego, 10pm
Chicago at Seattle, 10pm
Bay FC at Utah Royals FC, 10pm

Saturday
Boston Legacy FC at Louisville, 6:30pm
Orlando at Portland, 8:45pm

Sunday
Houston at North Carolina, 7pm
Washington at Angel City, 9pm

Wednesday, August 19
Seattle at Louisville, 6:30pm
Chicago at Houston, 8pm

Friday, August 21
Utah Royals FC at San Diego, 10pm

Saturday, August 22
Seattle at Kansas City, 6:30pm
Boston Legacy FC at North Carolina, 7:30pm
Denver Summit FC at Portland, 8:45pm

Sunday, August 23
Louisville at Chicago, 2pm
Orlando at Washington, 4pm
Houston at Bay FC, 6pm
Gotham FC at Angel City, 8pm

Soccer

Leagues Cup
Leon 3, Inter Miami CF 2
Orlando City SC 2, Atletico de San Luis 2 (Orlando City SC win 5-3 on penalties)
Monterrey 2, Nashville SC 1
Toluca 3, FC Dallas 1
San Diego FC 3, Puebla 2
LAFC 1, Queretaro 1 FT (LAFC win 5-3 on penalties)
Guadalajara 2, Seattle Sounders 1

UEFA Super Cup
Paris Saint-Germain 2, Aston Villa 1

NEW YORK POST ACTION

The POST Line

MLB
Thursday
American League

Favorite	Money Line	Underdog
YANKEES	$123-153	Mariners
Guardians	-102-120	TIGERS
Red Sox	$134-165	BLUE JAYS
Rangers	$136-162	ANGELS
Pirates	$107-131	MARLINS
Cubs	$115-139	NATIONALS
DODGERS	$113-139	Brewers
WHITE SOX	$113-138	Reds
Phillies	-109-113	TWINS

Home team in CAPS

WNBA
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
LIBERTY	8.5 (187.5)	Sparks
Dream	9.5 (174.5)	SUN
ACES	6.5 (170.5)	Mystics

NFL
Thursday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
BENGALS	6.5 (38.5)	Lions
Packers	1.5 (39.5)	STEELERS
Colts	2.5 (37.5)	PATRIOTS
RAIDERS	1.5 (41.5)	Cardinals
TEXANS	1.5 (36.5)	Chargers
Titans	4.5 (39.5)	49ERS

Friday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
JETS	6 (35.5)	Buccaneers
Dolphins	3 (36.5)	REDSKINS
Broncos	5.5 (40.5)	FALCONS

Saturday

Favorite	PTS (O/U)	Underdog
Vikings	1.5 (41.5)	**GIANTS**
BILLS	1.5 (37.5)	Panthers
Browns	2.5 (39.5)	BEARS
SAINTS	1.5 (35.5)	Jaguars
CHIEFS	2.5 (36.5)	Rams
Eagles	3.5 (36.5)	RAVENS
SEAHAWKS	2.5 (39.5)	Cowboys

SPORTS SHORTS

NBA: Westbrook says farewell

Russell Westbrook, the NBA's career leader in triple-doubles and the 2017 MVP, announced he's retiring after 18 seasons during which he was selected to the league's 75th anniversary team.

The two-time scoring champion shared his decision on social media in a post featuring a video narrated by actor **Michael B. Jordan** where the guard never says a word.

Westbrook led the NBA in assists three times and was a two-time MVP of the All-Star Game. He won an Olympic gold medal in the 2012 London Games.

MLB: Rays cap off perfect trip

The AL-best Rays became the second East Coast team in major league history to go 9-0 on a West Coast trip, beating the Athletics 8-4 in West Sacramento, Calif., behind a three-run homer from **Liam Hicks.**

● In Toronto, **Kazuma Okamoto** hit the go-ahead RBI single and **Myles Straw** had a two-run double in a five-run eighth inning, and the Blue Jays beat Boston 6-4, handing the Red Sox their fifth consecutive loss.

● In Detroit, **Jo Adell homered** as the Guardians defeated the Tigers 6-4 to snap a three-game skid.

● In St. Louis, **Alec Burleson** drove in three runs, including a two-run double during a four-run fifth inning, and the Cardinals beat the Phillies 7-1.

● In Chicago, **Luis Castillo** delivered seven shutout innings to spark a combined two-hitter as the White Sox defeated the Reds 5-0.

● In Miami, **Griffin Conine** and **Heriberto Hernández** homered as the Marlins extended their winning streak to four games with an 8-2 win over the Pirates.

NFL: ESPN releases ex-Jet Woody

NFL analyst **Damien Woody** confirmed to The Athletic's **Andrew Marchand** that ESPN did not renew his contract after 15 years amid widespread cuts of on-air talent at the Worldwide Leader.

The two-time Super Bowl champion offensive lineman with the Patriots and ex-Jet — who appears on "Get Up," "First Take," "Fantasy Football Now" and "SportsCenter" — will continue his broadcast duties for the remainder of the month by his choice.

● **Deshaun Watson** gets to go first. The polarizing quarterback will start Cleveland's exhibition opener at Chicago on Saturday afternoon — his first game action since 2024 — and **Shedeur Sanders** will play in the second half as the Browns QB competition creeps toward a conclusion.

● Former Giants quarterback **Tommy DeVito**, once known as "Tommy Cutlets," has been nicknamed "Two Chains" since joining the Patriots. Head coach **Mike Vrabel** praised DeVito for learning the new system and said "he's really done a nice job."

SOCCER: Messi returns in Miami loss

Daniel Arcila scored twice, including the go-ahead goal in the 83rd minute, and Club León advanced to the Leagues Cup knockout stage with a 3-2 win over host Inter Miami, which saw star **Lionel Messi** return following the death of his father.

Messi started the second half and received a loud ovation from fans at Miami's Nu Stadium. It was his first match since his father, **Jorge**, died Saturday at 68.

● In San Francisco, **Tiffany Hayes** scored a season-best 22 points off the bench to go with six rebounds and five assists, and the Golden State Valkyries beat the Chicago Sky 91-71 for their fifth straight win.

TOP PLAY

Back Mendoza over Beck in CFP title game rematch

By ERICH RICHTER

FERNANDO MENDOZA

Welcome to the Fernando Mendoza show.

The No. 1 pick in the 2026 draft is positioned to get some serious time in his NFL debut Thursday against the Cardinals, as the Raiders come in as -122 favorites on Fanatics and -1.5 against the spread, even though the Cardinals should come into the matchup a bit more crisp, as they've already played a game this preseason.

Carson Beck is expected to get significant game action, though it will be starter Jacoby Brissett playing for at least the first two drives.

Still, it's shaping up to be a College Football Playoff championship rematch as Beck comes in as the former Miami Hurricanes quarterback who nearly unseated the country's No. 1 team, the Indiana Hoosiers led by Mendoza.

I'd expect that at least a half is played by Mendoza and possibly more depending on his performance and how much the Raiders want to expose him.

Regardless, the Cardinals allowed 33 points to the Panthers with Haynes King and Kenny Pickett combining for 29 completions on 45 attempts with 242 yards and two passing touchdowns (and one rushing for King).

The backups on defense for Arizona aren't good, and I expect Mendoza will be put in position to succeed in his first NFL action.

Beck should profile as a strong option for Arizona when he plays against the Las Vegas backups in the second and third quarters.

There are no props available on Beck at the time of writing, but I'd look to wager on Beck to throw a touchdown live once he enters the game.

THE PLAYS: Raiders moneyline (-122, FanDuel); Over 40 (-137, Caesars).

Pitching Form

		(Game time)	2026			'26 vs OPP		CAREER	LAST 3 STARTS		
			W-L	ERA	*REC	W-L	ERA	vs OPP	W-L	IP	ERA
Mariners	Gilbert (R)		8-7	3.42	14-9	0-1	8.44	2-4	0-1	19.1	3.72
Yankees	Fried (L)	(1:35pm)	4-3	2.88	8-6	1-0	0.00	1-1	0-0	14.2	2.45
Reds	Abbott (L)		6-7	3.92	12-12	–	–	1-0	1-1	17.2	4.08
White Sox	Martin (R)	(1:35pm)	9-6	4.17	14-9	–	–	1-0	0-1	12.0	10.50
Phillies	Nola (R)		3-9	5.47	10-14	–	–	1-1	0-1	16.2	3.24
Twins	Bradley (R)	(7:30pm)	9-4	3.76	14-9	–	–	0-0	0-0	17.0	4.24
Guardians	Messick (L)		9-6	2.57	13-10	0-0	3.60	0-1	1-1	19.0	1.89
Tigers	Montero (R)	(1:10pm)	8-7	3.38	9-10	0-0	5.40	0-0	1-2	16.1	4.96
Red Sox	Tolle (L)		7-6	3.20	10-9	0-2	5.59	0-2	2-0	17.1	2.60
Blue Jays	Scherzer (R)	(3:07pm)	1-4	7.25	3-6	0-0	0.00	5-7	0-0	14.0	2.57
Rangers	deGrom (R)		8-7	3.87	12-10	0-1	9.00	1-3	1-1	13.1	4.73
Angels	Ureña (R)	(10:07pm)	7-8	2.83	9-10	1-0	1.00	1-0	1-1	14.1	3.14
Pirates	Ashcraft (R)		11-5	4.08	15-8	0-0	3.60	0-0	2-1	16.0	5.06
Marlins	Phillips (R)	(1:10pm)	3-5	3.47	6-7	0-0	0.00	1-0	1-0	14.0	3.21
Cubs	Gausman (R)		6-10	4.29	10-14	0-0	0.00	8-3	2-1	18.2	2.89
Nationals	Cavalli (R)	(4:05pm)	9-5	3.57	11-14	0-0	4.91	0-0	2-1	18.0	3.50
Brewers	Drohan (L)		6-4	3.87	7-6	0-0	4.15	0-0	1-1	17.0	6.88
Dodgers	Sasaki (R)	(10:10pm)	5-5	4.54	11-9	1-0	3.60	1-0	2-0	18.1	2.45

*** REC:** Won-lost record of pitcher's team in games he has started.

STITCHES

Home cookin' with Fish

The Pirates visit the Marlins, and I haven't been this excited since I tried the revamped Burger King Whopper. Highly recommended.

The Bucs' Braxton Ashcraft was bruised by the Brews for four runs in five innings in his last start. Miami's Tyler Phillips has given up five runs in his past 14 frames, and his ERA (3.48) shrinks to 1.68 at home. And the Marlins are 37-24 at home. We will play $50 on Phillips and the Fish.

-$

Knicks fans want to rename the Hudson River the "Brunson River" to honor All-Star Jalen Brunson. Orioles fans may want to stick "Baz Boulevard" on the street in Baltimore that has the most "hits and runs." Shane Baz gave up five runs on nine hits in just three innings. Cam Sanders came in and picked up right where "Shame" left off, allowing two more runs in $1\frac{1}{3}$ innings. Twins win 7-5. Back-to-back losses have us at -631 boogpowells.

stitches@nypost.com

NEW YORK POST ACTION

Home Team Lineups

HOME AWAY

	TODAY Aug. 13	FRI Aug. 14	SAT Aug. 15	SUN Aug. 16	MON Aug. 17
	Seattle 1:35 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	Toronto 7:15 Apple TV 660 AM 101.9 FM	Toronto 3:07 YES 660 AM	Toronto 1:37 YES 660 AM 101.9 FM	NO GAME
	NO GAME	Washington 7:10 PIX11 880 AM	Washington 4:10 SNY FS1 880 AM	Washington 1:40 SNY 880 AM	San Diego 7:10 SNY 880 AM
	Los Angeles 8:00 Prime Video	NO GAME	Connecticut 1:00 Fox 5	NO GAME	NO GAME

Saturday		Friday	
	Preseason: Minnesota 1:00 WNBC 4 101.9 FM		Preseason: Tampa Bay 7:00 WCBS 2 104.3 FM

Saturday		Today		Friday	
	Atlanta United 7:30 Apple TV		Necaxa 7:30 Apple TV		KC Current 8:00 Prime Video

Today's Sports on the Air

	MLB BASEBALL	
1 p.m.	Guardians at Tigers	MLBN
1:35 p.m.	Mariners at Yankees	YES, 660 AM, 101.9 FM
7:30 p.m.	Phillies vs. Twins	Netflix
11 p.m.	Brewers at Dodgers (joined in progress)	MLBN
	NFL FOOTBALL	
7 p.m.	Preseason: Packers at Steelers	NFLN
10 p.m.	Preseason: Titans at 49ers (joined in progress)	NFLN
	WNBA BASKETBALL	
8 p.m.	Sparks at Liberty	Prime Video
10 p.m.	Mystics at Aces	Prime Video
	GOLF	
7 a.m.	DP World Tour: Danish Golf Championship, 1st Round	Golf
9 a.m.	PGA Tour: FedEx St. Jude Championship, 1st Round	ESPN
2 p.m.	PGA Tour: FedEx St. Jude Championship, 1st Round	Golf
3 p.m.	USGA: 2026 U.S. Amateur, Round of 16	NBCSN
6 p.m.	LPGA Tour: The Standard Portland Classic, 1st Round	Golf
	TENNIS	
11 a.m.	ATP/WTA Cincinnati, 1st Round	Tennis
6 p.m.	ATP/WTA Canada: Singles Finals	Tennis
	MEN'S SOCCER	
10:30 p.m.	Leagues Cup Group Stage: Tijuana at Portland Timbers	FS1
	MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL	
6:30 p.m.	New Hampshire Fisher Cats at Somerset Patriots	YES
6:30 p.m.	Jersey Shore BlueClaws at Brooklyn Cyclones	SNY
	CFL FOOTBALL	
9 p.m.	British Columbia Lions at Calgary Stampeders	CBSSN
	WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOCCER	
8 p.m.	TCU at Wisconsin	BTN
	LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES REGIONALS	
1 p.m.	Midwest Semi.: Davenport, IA/Columbia Mo. vs. Whitefish Bay, Wisc.	ESPN
3 p.m.	Mid-Atlantic Semifinal: Wilmington, Del. vs. Washington, DC	ESPN
5 p.m.	Mountain Semifinal: Alpine, Ut. Vs. Billings, Mont.	ESPN
7 p.m.	New England Championship: Gray, Me. vs. Bridgewater, Mass.	ESPN
9 p.m.	Northwest Championship: Bend, Ore./Soundview, Wash. vs. Eagle, Id.	ESPN
	HORSE RACING	
1 p.m.	Saratoga Live	FS2
5 p.m.	FanDuel Racing	MSGSN
	AFL FOOTBALL	
5:55 a.m. (Fri.)	Adelaide at Fremantle	FS2

ODDS & ENDS

NHL
Odds to make/miss 2026-27 playoffs

TEAM RESULT	ODDS
Avalanche make	-2000
Avalanche miss	+900
Blackhawks make	+400
Blackhawks miss	-550
Blue Jackets make	+150
Blue Jackets miss	-190
Blues make	+230
Blues miss	-300
Bruins make	+275
Bruins miss	-350
Canadiens make	-200
Canadiens miss	+160
Canucks make	11/1
Canucks miss	-2500
Capitals make	-300
Capitals miss	+230
Devils make	-130
Devils miss	+105
Ducks make	-160
Ducks miss	+130
Flames make	+900
Flames miss	-2000
Flyers make	+130
Flyers miss	-160
Golden Knights make	-800
Golden Knights miss	+525
Hurricanes make	-1100
Hurricanes miss	+700
Islanders make	+250
Islanders miss	-325
Jets make	+220
Jets miss	-285
Kings make	-180
Kings miss	+145
Kraken make	+500
Kraken miss	-750
Lightning make	-400
Lightning miss	+300
Mammoth make	-190
Mammoth miss	+150
Maple Leafs make	-120
Maple Leafs miss	-102
Oilers make	-900
Oilers miss	+550
Panthers make	-1000
Panthers miss	+600
Penguins make	+190
Penguins miss	-235
Predators make	+250
Predators miss	-325
Rangers make	+230
Rangers miss	-300
Red Wings make	+250
Red Wings miss	-325
Sabres make	-118
Sabres miss	-105
Senators make	+105
Senators miss	-130
Sharks make	-145
Sharks miss	+115
Stars make	-450
Stars miss	+340
Wild make	-500
Wild miss	+360

BET SMART

Hitting pay dirt with this Amon-Ra TD prop

Getty Images

ST. BROWN FOR SIX: Lions WR Amon-Ra St. Brown ranks third in touchdown receptions since 2022 but has yet to win the prop for having the most in a season. This is the year St. Brown adds that accolade to his résumé, predicts Malik Smith.

By MALIK SMITH

The Lions enter the 2026 NFL season with relatively high expectations. After missing the playoffs last year, oddsmakers give the Lions the third-best odds to win the NFC, tied with the 49ers but behind the Rams and Seahawks.

To compete with their conference rivals, they'll need to lean into what they've done best in recent years: scoring.

After one lackluster season, head coach Dan Campbell managed to turn the Lions into one of the best offensive units in football. Since 2022, they've ranked top five in scoring in each season, with the No. 1 scoring offense in 2024 and the No. 4 unit last season.

Over that time, Amon-Ra St. Brown has been one of the most dominant receivers in the league. He leads all receivers in receptions and ranks third in receiving touchdowns (39) behind Ja'Marr Chase (41) and Davante Adams (44).

Naturally, all three players are at the top of the odds board with +700 odds to lead the NFL in receiving touchdowns this upcoming season, with 2025 receiving yards leader Jaxson Smith-Njigba also in the mix at +800 at BetMGM.

St. Brown is the only player among the three favorites who hasn't led the NFL in receiving touchdowns. Adams has done it three times in his career, including last season, and Chase held the crown in 2024, but St. Brown has finished third twice and second last season.

He stands out among this crowded group as a strong candidate to break through this season. The Lions have been one of the best red zone teams in the league under Campbell and they aren't afraid to use their dynamic passing game to their advantage when they get inside the 20.

St. Brown has been the biggest beneficiary of their offensive style. Last season he saw 41.5 percent of the Lions targets in the red zone, which was the highest number in the league. His 20 red zone catches were tied with Christian McCaffrey for the most in the NFL and his 10 touchdowns were tied for second. St. Brown's teammates combined for 29 red zone catches by comparison.

The other half of the equation for St. Brown's touchdowns is Jared Goff, who has been one of the league's best passers since teaming up with Campbell on the Lions. His 130 passing touchdowns over the past four seasons are the most in the NFL and I expect this team to keep throwing the ball at a high rate.

Even with dynamic players such as receiver Jameson Williams and running back Jahmyr Gibbs, who can both be dangerous in the passing game, St. Brown's numbers are consistently among the best in the league.

There are so many unknowns that pop up during a football season, but the connection between St. Brown and Goff is about as solid as they come. Betting a season-long market in the summer can be tricky, but among the top options, I trust this offense the most.

I'll bet on St. Brown to finally break through and lead the NFL in receiving touchdowns.

Magic, Luka give huge deal thumbs-up

By GRANT YOUNG

The Lakers are changing hands once again.

The iconic NBA franchise was sold to businessman Josh Kushner and ex-Disney executive Bob Iger for about $12.5 billion, 14 months after Mark Walter bought the team for $10 billion.

Many Lakers fans are wondering how to feel about their team's new ownership. Lakers legend and former owner Magic Johnson provided an opinion that should excite fans following this sale.

"Laker fans, you couldn't have two better owners. I've known Bob personally for over 40 years — he has always loved the Lakers and basketball and he will bring championships back to LA," Johnson wrote.

Johnson, who was part of an ownership group that purchased the Dodgers for a staggering $2.15 billion in October 2012, was formerly the Lakers president of basketball operations.

Johnson won five championships during his 13-season stint with the Lakers and is still largely considered the greatest point guard in NBA history.

Lakers star Luka Doncic vowed to bring another championship to Los Angeles on Wednesday after the sale. The 27-year-old, who was handed the keys to the franchise following LeBron James' departure in free agency, broke his silence on the blockbuster ownership change in an upbeat social media post.

Doncic said he was "excited" to work with the new billionaire owners as he looks to lead the storied franchise back to NBA glory.

"Being a Laker means everything to me, and I'm excited to get back on the court and bring a championship to LA," Doncic posted to social media.

"I've gotten used to big changes over these last few years, but I know that no matter what, there is no limit to the potential of this iconic franchise. I look forward to meeting Josh and Bob so we can get to work building something special in LA together," he added.

It will be fascinating to see how the Lakers fare under their new ownership. Their championship prospects don't look as good with LeBron James no longer on the roster, but the team still seems to be in a good place with Doncic, Austin Reaves and Walker Kessler in the starting lineup.

crypto.com
LAKERS

BUY BUY GUYS

Lakers sold, again ... for record $12.5B to ex-Disney exec Iger and Kushner brother Josh

By KHOBI PRICE and MATT EHALT

The Lakers sold for a record-breaking $12.5 billion in a blockbuster deal that sent shock waves through the sports world Wednesday.

Mark Walter is selling the NBA franchise to businessman Josh Kushner and ex-Disney executive Bob Iger at the historic valuation, ESPN first reported, 14 months after Walter bought the Lakers for a then-record $10 billion.

Just over a year later, the record for the largest sale of an American sports team jumped by $2.5 billion.

"As lifelong NBA fans, we are deeply honored for the opportunity to become stewards of the Los Angeles Lakers, one of the most iconic sports franchises in the world. We have immense respect for the leadership and vision of Jerry and Jeanie Buss," Kushner and Iger said in a statement to The Post.

"Our long-term commitment is to build on that foundation, compete at the highest level, and serve this extraordinary team, its fans, and the city of Los Angeles."

One thing that became apparent in the immediate aftermath of the pending sale: Iger will be the one most actively involved with the Lakers once the sale becomes official, a source told The Post.

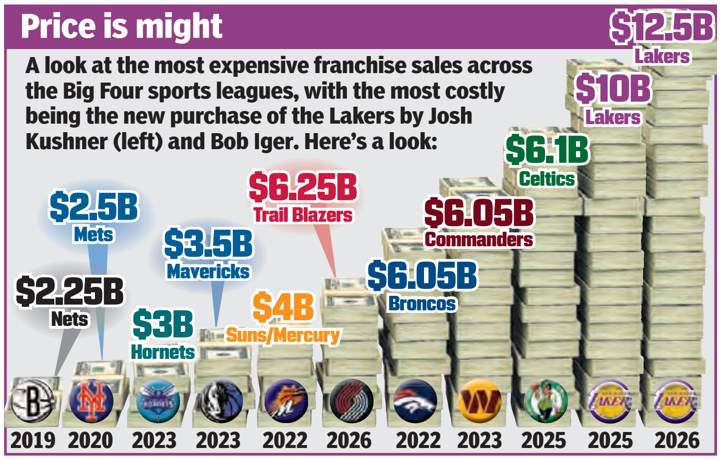
Iger revealed to The Post in an exclusive interview that the deal came together in just three business days, after he and Kushner got wind last weekend that Walter might be interested in selling his stake in the team.

Walter, the primary owner of the Dodgers, purchased controlling interest in the Lakers from the Buss family last year for an approximate $10 billion valuation.

The NBA Board of Governors officially approved the transaction last October, with Jeanie Buss remaining as the team governor for five years following the sale.

Walter's ownership of the Dodgers is not expected to change in the deal, a source confirmed to The Post.

The transaction could take several weeks before the Board of



Price is might

A look at the most expensive franchise sales across the Big Four sports leagues, with the most costly being the new purchase of the Lakers by Josh Kushner (left) and Bob Iger. Here's a look:

PRICE IS MIGHT: Businessman Josh Kushner (left), brother of President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, and ex-Disney exec Bob Iger are purchasing the Lakers for a record $12.5 billion, just 14 months after the team was sold for $10 billion. Getty Images (3)

Governors approves the deal, with the next board meeting scheduled for September.

The sale comes as federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York and the Securities and Exchange Commission have been examining approximately $16 billion in private credit transactions involving insurance companies controlled by Walter.

The investigation reportedly began after an internal whistleblower questioned how Walter's firm, Guggenheim Investments, recorded revenue received through dealings with the insurers. Authorities are examining whether loans supporting other portions of Walter's business empire were properly identified as related-party transactions.

"Owning the Los Angeles Lakers has been one of the great honors of my life — an extraordinary investment, but what I will carry with me is the community, the fans, and a city that treats this team as family," Walter said in a statement to ESPN.

Kushner and Iger had been part of the group hoping to land an expansion team in Las Vegas, per ESPN, but opted to instead purchase the team for the largest figure in American sports history.

The 41-year-old Kushner is the founder and managing partner of Thrive Capital, the son of US ambassador to France Charles Kushner and the brother of President Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner.

Iger, 75, served as the CEO of The Walt Disney Company twice from 2005-20 and 2022-26, exiting the company this March.

Iger and Kushner will take over a Lakers team that is transitioning into the post-LeBron James era that will be led by Luka Doncic.

Kushner is no stranger to NBA ownership. He became a minority owner of the Grizzlies in 2019 before selling his share to purchase a stake in the Heat in May 2025. Kushner will have to divest his stake in the Heat to take control of the Lakers.

With the deal coming together so quickly, questions remain about the vision that Iger and Kushner have for the Lakers.

"We're fans," Iger said. "We respect the value that's been created, both on the court and off. Our intention is to build this great franchise from a position of strength in many respects as an organization. ... we go into this with an appreciation of who the Lakers are. And we just want to build value from today on."

Iger added: "This is very new."

Ownership turnover has Lakers fans asking 'What now?'

THERE was a deep exhale.

Now there's ... a giant shrug?

What's to become of the Lakers? Who knows.

The darlings of the NBA, who have won 17 championships, have undergone two stunning ownership changes in the past 14 months after being owned by the Buss family for 47 years.

The Buss family sold the team to Mark Walter in October 2025 for a $10 billion valuation. Wednesday, news broke that Walter is selling the team to former Disney CEO Bob Iger and Joshua Kushner — who has a minority stake in the Miami Heat and is the younger brother of Jared Kushner, who's President Trump's son-in-law.

Melissa Rohlin

It's dizzying, stunning and raises a lot of questions.

Under Walter, we knew what was going to happen. The Lakers were going to become a well-oiled machine. After Walter and Guggenheim Baseball Management took over ownership of the Dodgers in 2012, they've won three World Series championships.

The Lakers had already begun making drastic changes, revamping their front office. They wanted to be on the cutting edge of data and analytics for the draft and free agency, building a biomechanics lab, new movement labs and a recovery lab.

President of basketball operations and general manager Rob Pelinka called it "a full rebuild and retool" in May after Los Angeles was swept out of the second round of the playoffs by the Thunder.

Under Walter, the Lakers hired Dodgers chief marketing officer Lon Rosen as president of business operations. Dodgers executives Andrew Friedman and Farhan Zaidi were acting as Lakers advisers.

They had one of the top brain trusts in sports backing them, the seemingly limitless resources of Walter and Co. and the playbook for success.

Now what?

Who are Iger and Kushner?

"We're fans," Iger told Khobi Price of The Post. "We respect the value that's been created, both on the court and off."

OK, so what's their plan?

"Our intention is to build this great franchise from a position of strength in many respects as an organization," Iger told The Post. "We're smart enough to know what we know and what we don't know. I think it's just premature to speculate at all about what we plan to do, because frankly, we haven't made any plans yet. Again, we go into this with an appreciation of who the Lakers are. And we just want to build value from today on. That's all."

So, we have more questions than answers. To be fair, the deal went down in less than 72 hours.

Iger and Kushner were pursuing a majority ownership stake in a potential Las Vegas expansion franchise before they pivoted on a dime.

"It was suggested to us that maybe Mark Walter would be interested in selling his stake in the Lakers," Iger told The Post. "And we immediately decided that given the value of the franchise and the iconic nature of the team that we would be really smart to pursue it."

It was fast, unexpected, and now Lakers fans are kind of left in the lurch.

Do Iger and Kushner intend to make sweeping changes? Are they going to keep the status quo? Under Walter and Co., it was clear the Lakers had a distinct plan. They knew it. We knew it. It created a sense of comfort.

Sure, the Lakers had lost their family-owned charm after being sold by the Busses, who had transformed them into one of the greatest organizations in sports. But hey, at least they were owned by a guy who had the blueprint for winning. That was comforting.

Especially considering the Lakers' current state.

Since hoisting the Larry O'Brien Trophy in 2020, the Lakers have won just three playoff series. They've had three coaching changes in six years. They've only won one title in the past 16 years.

LeBron James left last month in free agency. The Lakers are now Luka Doncic's team. And the front office spent this summer trying to put the proper pieces around him so they could climb the mountaintop once again.

But now another major earthquake has struck. The foundation has been rocked. There is rubble to sort through and chaos.

What's next for the Lakers?

Can they be great again?

Or are we in for another very long winter?

mrohlin@californiapost

WHO ARE THEY?

On-again, off-again Liberty need to do more to prove they can win another title

By MADELINE KENNEY

INDIANAPOLIS — There's no doubt the Liberty are playoff contenders.

But have they done enough to be true title contenders?

The Liberty have been all over the place this season. They've had some convincing wins and deflating losses.

New York had looked better of late, despite Leonie Fiebich and Satou Sabally remaining out with injuries. Prior to Tuesday's 106-92 loss to the Fever, the Liberty had won seven of eight games and were knocking on the door of home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

But they dropped to 20-14, good for seventh place in a tight race for seeding. They've beaten every team at least once except for the Valkyries.

Thursday
SPARKS AT LIBERTY
8 p.m.
Prime

Getting to the playoffs isn't enough for the Liberty. The goal is to win it all.

Sandy Brondello was fired last season only a year removed from leading the franchise to its first championship. Her replacement, WNBA newbie Chris DeMarco, knew the expectations coming in.

With 10 games left in the regular season, the jury is still out on the team's ceiling.

Three reasons why the Liberty are title contenders:

Breanna Stewart is just that good

Stewart has arguably been the biggest threat to A'ja Wilson winning a record fifth league MVP this season. Stewart is a two-way force who has willed New York to countless wins this season.

She's fourth in the league in scoring, averaging 21.3 points. Stewart is the team's defensive anchor and has switched into overdrive with Fiebich and Sabally missing.

Any team that employs Stewart has a fighting chance in a multiple-game series.

Playoff experience of the core four

A lot of Sabrina Ionescu's confidence in this group stems from the continuity of her, Stewart, Jonquel Jones and Fiebich.

"We understand what it takes to win and we know what it feels like to lose," Ionescu said. "And so when you go in with that chemistry and accountability going in, you feel really confident and comfortable."

The Liberty's best five-player lineup this season featured Ionescu, Fiebich, Stewart, Jones and Pauline Astier. They've played 47 minutes across five games, posting a positive net rating of 21.

A top-tier offense

The Liberty have so many offensive weapons.

Stewart has been solid all season, though she missed a few at the rim Tuesday. Ionescu has returned to form over the past month-plus. And when Jones is getting paint touches and the ball is moving, the Liberty are a hard team to stop.

New York ranks fourth in offense, with a rating of 112.1.

The team's defense is another story.

Three reasons why the Liberty aren't contenders:

New coaching staff running out of time

There were bound to be growing pains with a new coaching staff amid a season that's essentially been baptism by fire.

Three of the Liberty's front-of-bench coaches, including DeMarco, are new to this league.

DeMarco's substitution patterns have been questionable at various points of the season. The team's struggles to make in-game adjustments are a reflection of him and his staff.

Who knows about Sabally?

The Liberty have remained mum regarding Sabally, who hasn't played a game since June 23 because of a concussion.

As a result, the Liberty's five best players — Ionescu, Fiebich, Sabally, Stewart and Jones — have played only 25 minutes across five games together.

The absences of Sabally and Fiebich have magnified the team's defensive woes.

The Liberty concede the fourth-most 3-pointers per game (9.3) and the third-highest 3-point percentage (35.8 percent).

Can they count on the bench?

The Liberty reserves scored 58 points in Sunday's win against the Aces' junior varsity team. It was the third-highest bench scoring total in franchise history and most since 2016.

Then the bench turned around and chipped in only 26 points Tuesday.

The Liberty can't count on Raquel Carrera in the playoffs. Han Xu's defense needs some work. Marine Johannes can be agonizingly streaky. Marine Fauthoux has played only 13 games. And Betnijah Laney-Hamilton is gone.

Rebekah Gardner is probably the Liberty's most reliable reserve at this point.

The on-paper depth on this roster lauded in the preseason hasn't consistently translated to the court.

mkenney@nypost.com

Wilson
EVO NXT
NEW YORK
20
BARCLAYS
Liberty Mutual

UP IN THE AIR: Whether Sabrina Ionescu and the Liberty can compete for a WNBA title largely depends on finding some consistency. Getty Images

YOU AGAIN? Jalen Brunson and the Knicks swept the 76ers out of the Eastern Conference semifinals in May. After LeBron James signed with Philadelphia, the NBA tasked the Knicks with opening the season against the Sixers. They will also face James and Co. to begin the NBA Cup group stage.
Jason Szenes

Knicks, 76ers meet to open NBA Cup group stage

By JARED SCHWARTZ

The Knicks will open another one of their championship defenses against the 76ers.

The teams will square off in Philadelphia on Oct. 30 on Amazon Prime for the league's first NBA Cup group-stage game.

The Knicks memorably won last year's NBA Cup, defeating the Spurs in the final in Las Vegas in December — which served as a preview for the NBA Finals, where they again beat the Spurs.

That means the Knicks will begin their championship defense against LeBron James and the new-look 76ers at Madison Square Garden on Opening Night on Oct. 20, then will begin their Cup defense against the 76ers at Xfinity Mobile Arena 10 days later for the first group-stage game.

The full NBA Cup group-stage schedule was released Wednesday.

The Knicks will play the Pacers at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on Nov. 13, will host the Cavaliers at MSG on Nov. 25 for a Thanksgiving Eve clash and host the Heat at MSG on Nov. 27 for a Black Friday showdown.

The games against the 76ers, Pacers and Heat will be nationally televised on Amazon Prime.

The NBA Cup final will be played at Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis on Dec. 11 — marking the first time it will be held outside of Las Vegas, which hosted the first three finals for the in-season tournament. The NBA announced that the semifinals will be played in team markets. Last year, the semis and the NBA Cup final were in Las Vegas.

Wednesday's release means there are now seven known games on the Knicks schedule after a few marquee slots were announced Tuesday:

- vs. 76ers on Oct. 20 (Opening Night)
- at Celtics on Oct. 23
- at 76ers on Oct. 30 (NBA Cup tipoff)
- at Pacers on Nov. 13 (NBA Cup group stage)
- vs. Cavaliers on Nov. 25 (NBA Cup group stage/Thanksgiving Eve)
- vs. Heat on Nov. 27 (NBA Cup group stage/Black Friday)
- vs. Spurs on Dec. 25 (Christmas Day)

The full schedules will be released Thursday.

jschwartz@nypost.com

Port Wash. LLWS run ends vs. CT champ

By ALEX MITCHELL

DARIEN 8
PORT WA. 4
LLWS Metro region

Port Washington's best-ever season came to a disappointing end, as the New York state champs were eliminated in the Little League World Series Metro regional round by Darien, Conn., 8-4 on Wednesday night.

They were two wins away from a berth in the full-fledged Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., which would have been the Nassau County team's first in its 63-year history.

Darien moves ahead to the championship game against Bayonne, N.J., Friday at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

The Long Islanders started falling behind in the bottom of the first inning when Darien catcher Hugh Butler homered off Carlo Cafferata to make it 1-0 at Leon J. Breen Field in Bristol, Conn.

They had a hard time converting runs against Darien starter Charlie MacLane, who pitched 2 ⅓ shutout innings. Chase Sutter replaced him with a runner on second base in the third.

Cafferata atoned at the plate that inning by ripping an RBI single to tie the game 1-1. Port went on to load the bases on Sutter, but couldn't convert any more offense in the third inning.

Darien regained the lead when right fielder Wells Johnson drove in a run on an infield error in the bottom of the third. The team poured it on with an RBI single from shortstop Luca Hidaka and an RBI double from Butler that extended the lead to 4-1.

Drew Theoharis replaced Cafferata with runners on second and third with no outs, as Sutter drove in another pair with a double that pushed things to 6-1 in the same inning.

Theoharis also drove in a run on an RBI single against reliever Rex Paquette in the fifth inning that made it a 6-2 game.

Butler again took the wind out of Port's sails with another big dent, this one for two runs in the bottom of the fifth to extend the lead to 8-2.

Port fought valiantly until the end and loaded the bases in the sixth inning. Theoharis' younger brother, outfielder Luca, drove in a pair with a single, cutting the Darien lead to 8-4 in a one-out rally.

Darien closer Roscoe Hurty entered and secured the final two outs on a double play.

Port's feel-good season suddenly became a national sensation this week, thanks to their tradition of coaches putting the boys' cell phones in a bucket five hours ahead of first pitch on game days, which The Post first reported.

The kids not only loved playing games with each other in place of screen time, but also found it to be a good luck charm throughout the New York state championship games.

Undefeated Bayonne Central beat Connecticut's best 8-2 in the Metro Region's opening round, and Port 12-2 in the winner's bracket of the double-elimination tournament.

The Garden State powerhouse's 11- and 12-year-olds are enjoying the age group's first state championship in the league's 75-year history.

amitchell@nypost.com

IRON WIL'

Jets star wide receiver 'back to himself' after knee injury derailed '25

By BRIAN COSTELLO

Garrett Wilson has not played a football game since last November. He knows Friday night's game against the Buccaneers is only preseason and does not count in the standings, but he'll take any football right now.

"I missed it a lot," Wilson said Wednesday. "I grew up my whole life playing this game, loving this game and all of a sudden you're not able to play and you realize how much it really meant to you. I've always known but it kind of just brings it back into perspective. I'm just happy to be back healthy, feeling good and ready to go this season."

Preseason
BUCCANEERS AT JETS
Friday, 7 p.m.
WCBS 2
WAXQ
(104.3 FM)
Line: Jets -6 • O/U: 35.5

The Jets are counting on their 26-year-old star to bounce back after a lost year in 2025 when a knee injury limited him to seven games. He has shown no ill effects from the injury during training camp. He made a highlight play in Tuesday's joint practice with the Buccaneers, catching a tipped pass and then juking his way through defenders for a touchdown.

"[Wilson] is back to himself," Jets wide receivers coach Shawn Jefferson said. "It's good to get him back on the field. Our whole offense is just energized when he's out there on the field. He's kind of that player when everything is going awry and we need somebody to make a play, boom he makes that play and kind of calms the storm."

There have been plenty of storms since Wilson was drafted by the Jets in the first round of the 2022 draft. He was one of three first-round picks that year and he's the only one left on the team after the Jets dealt Sauce Gardner to the Colts and Jermaine Johnson to the Titans.

Jefferson, who has coached Wilson since 2024, said he has seen a difference in Wilson this year.

"The really good thing is he's taken a good step forward and been a more vocal leader," Jefferson said. "I think that's awesome. A lot of times when you're young like that it just doesn't come to you. I call him a vet now. He's got things going on. It's been awesome working with that kid. That kid is not only a good player but he's a freaking hell of a person."

Wilson said he'll probably never be the vocal guy that some of his teammates are, but he now understands when he needs to speak up.

"It's more just feeling comfortable," Wilson said. "You feel like when something needs to be said, you've got to say it. You don't want to miss your moment. You don't want to miss a chance on success because we feel like something didn't get said when it needed to be addressed. Maybe it's just getting older and having a better idea of what needs to be said. I'm never going to be that vocal guy to the extent that some may like to see it but when I do think there's something that needs to be said, I feel fully comfortable saying that. Hopefully, my teammates respect what I do enough and how I've been to respond to it. It comes with time and I feel like I'm there now."

Wilson has been through a lot already in his first four seasons with the Jets. He has played with nine different starting quarterbacks: Joe Flacco, Zach Wilson, Mike White, Aaron Rodgers, Tim Boyle, Trevor Siemian, Justin Fields, Tyrod Taylor and Brady Cook. Now, he's trying to build chemistry with Geno Smith.

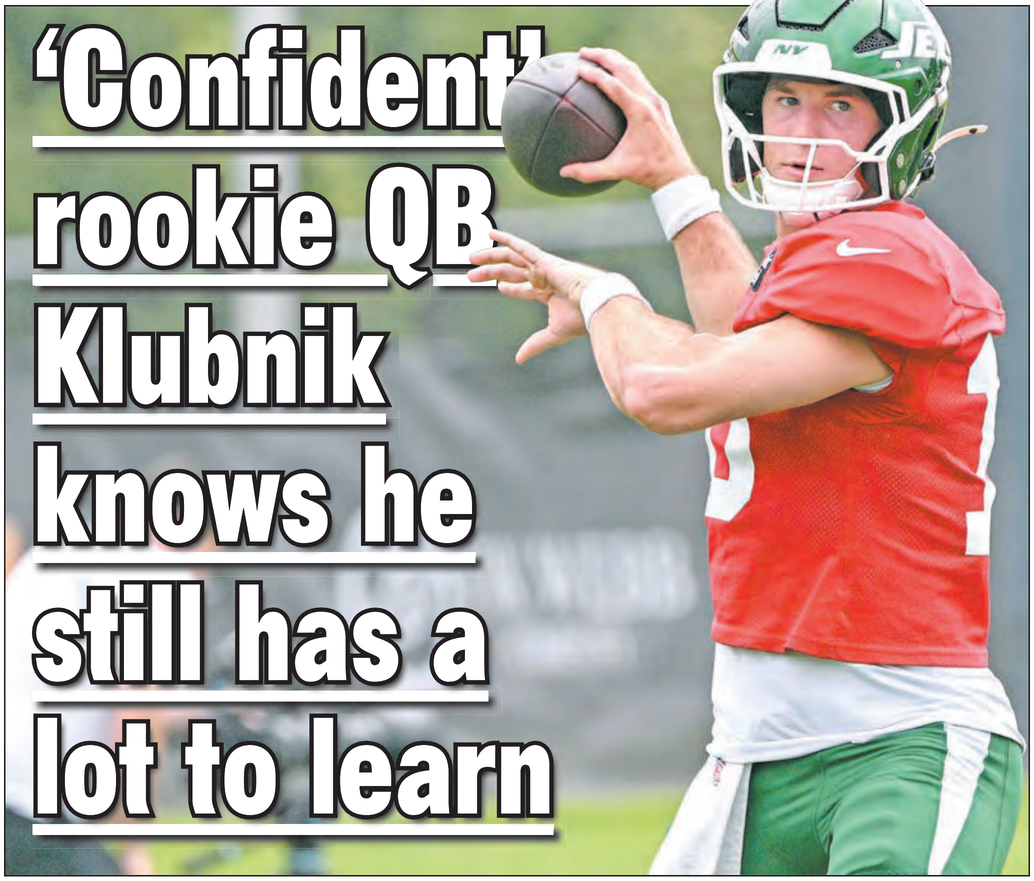
The Jets believe they have now surrounded Wilson with enough talent to take some of the pressure off of him. Jefferson said he just has to "be Garrett" this season.

"A couple years before he's had to be the savior," Jefferson said. "But we put pieces around him now and he doesn't have to strain as hard. Sometimes you strain so much, the engine kind of dies. We're in a good place with him right now. We put some pieces around him and if these pieces keep on an upward trajectory we won't overload him or anything like that."

brian.costello@nypost.com

Jets notes / Page 38

'READY' TO FLY: Garrett Wilson was limited to seven games last season because of a knee injury, but he said he's healthy and "ready to go" this season. He's spending training camp trying to be more of a vocal leader and developing a connection with new quarterback Geno Smith (left). Bill Kostroun (2)



‘Confident’ rookie QB Klubnik knows he still has a lot to learn

PUTTING IN THE WORK: Dabo Swinney said Jets rookie quarterback Cade Klubnik is one of his favorite players to have coached. “But what I love is he’s not cocky at all, he’s just blue-collar. That’s who he is at his core — how he was raised,” the Clemson coach said. Bill Kostroun

Mark Cannizzaro

THE FIRST thing his new Jets teammates noticed about Cade Klubnik when he arrived via the fourth round of the draft was his high level of confidence for a 22-year-old rookie.

There’s a thin line between confident and cocky, same way there’s a thin line between love and hate. The quickest way for a rookie to alienate his teammates is to blow into town cocky, thinking he has all the answers before playing a single NFL snap — even coming off a decorated career at a program like Clemson.

Klubnik is not that guy. He’s confident, not cocky. And that’s what his teammates and head coach Aaron Glenn love about him.

“You have to be confident stepping on the field, but you also have to be aware of where you’re at and humble enough to realize I’m not where I want to be yet — I need to get better,” Klubnik said after Wednesday’s practice. “If you’re cocky, you’re basically saying, ‘I’ve arrived, this is everything I’m going to be.’

“I’m confident when I step on the field because I’m confident in the work I’ve put in. That’s where my confidence comes from — preparation, work, the [49 college] games I’ve played, the reps in the film room. But there’s also the fact that I’ve got a long way to go.”

Music to the Jets’ ears.

Klubnik has flashed plenty on the practice field this summer — flashes suggesting the Jets may have found a steal with the 110th pick. He delivered a long, artistic scoring pass to second-year receiver Arian Smith against Tampa Bay’s defense in Wednesday’s joint practice. Asked about it afterward, Klubnik deflected credit, praising the line’s protection and Smith’s “speed” and “running a great route.”

Clemson coach Dabo Swinney was hardly surprised his former quarterback was already winning over his first NFL locker room.

“That’s who he is to his core,” Swinney told The Post by phone, moments before his own preseason practice. “He’s a winner. In the last seven years — 10th through 12th grade in high school plus four years of college — he’s won five championships and been MVP in every one of them. Why wouldn’t he be confident? He has every reason to be.

“But what I love is he’s not cocky at all, he’s just blue-collar. That’s who he is at his core — how he was raised.”

Swinney believes the adversity of a down 2025 season, following a career year in 2024 that ended with an ACC title and a College Football Playoff berth, helped forge the pro Klubnik is becoming.

“Everything lined up perfectly for him,” Swinney said. “He never lost a game in high school, then wins the ACC championship his first year at Clemson, MVP of the title game, and wins it again in ’24. Then he had some real adversity last year.

“What’s great about adversity is you find out what people are made of. It’s easy when everything’s perfect. For the first time in his life, he had real football adversity — things didn’t go the way anyone projected, he got banged up [ankle injury], there was a lot of negativity and criticism.

“Suddenly the season’s a mess. Who are you in that moment? Watching him weather it, watching how he didn’t change who he was — in fact he dug in even more — he’s got thick skin to go with that elite talent. I love Klubnik. He’s one of my favorite players I’ve ever had.”

Following 2023 and 2024, Klubnik looked like a lock for the first round — he led the FBS in attempts and completions in 2023, then threw 36 touchdowns against just six interceptions in 2024. Then came a rockier 2025: a 7-6 record, only 16 touchdowns and six interceptions, before a late-season push earned Clemson a Pinstripe Bowl bid.

Garrett Wilson, the top Jets receiver, said “confidence is the main thing” he noticed from Klubnik right away.

“From day one, he trusted his training, his arm, to make throws where you’re like, ‘Wow,’ ” Wilson said. “We actually grew up down the road from each other in West Texas, so we got to sling it around. He’s a really cool dude. He just gets it. He’s a carbon copy of what a quarterback in this league is supposed to be.

“Every day he seems a little more comfortable. He’s confident, and it rubs off on the group — the receivers know the ball can go up at any time, so we’re running our routes looking up for it a little more.”

Glenn said he’s seen Klubnik “grow each and every day,” adding, “There’s still a lot of growing left for him as a quarterback in this league, but the one thing he does is take on the challenge.”

Veteran safety Minkah Fitzpatrick marveled at Klubnik’s poise.

“There’s nothing we throw at him that really gets him on his heels,” Fitzpatrick said. “Some quarterbacks’ eyes get big when we disguise things. He stays pretty cool, calm and collected.”

Klubnik has been a sponge, soaking in 14 years of NFL knowledge from starter Geno Smith.

“I think the world of Cade,” Smith said. “He’s learning, making plays, you can see the talent.”

Klubnik called Smith “an incredible mentor to me, [and] that’s not always the case for a rookie quarterback. I’m really thankful to have him in the room.”

The next test comes Friday night, when the Jets host Tampa Bay at MetLife in their preseason opener. Smith will start and likely play a couple of series before handing off to Klubnik for his first true NFL action.

Swinney said he will be watching.

“He’s a winner — you’ll see that in the preseason games,” Swinney said. “He’s a relentless pursuer of excellence. Failures are part of that, and he’s not derailed by them. I think he’s a way better talent than a fourth-round pick.

“Time will tell, but I really believe in Cade Klubnik. I think he’s one of those guys who has a chance to play a long time. Nothing that happened during his time at Clemson makes me believe anything other than that he can be a great pro and have a great career.”

mcannizzaro@nypost.com

TRAINING DAY

CHAMP BAILEY

Jets edge rusher **David Bailey** continues to have an outstanding training camp. He had what would have been a sack of Baker Mayfield if tackling were allowed during a team period. He also beat Luke Goedeke, whom he fought Tuesday, in one-on-one drills.

TWO-MINUTE ILL

The joint practice with the Buccaneers ended with a two-minute drill. The Buccaneers offense went first and Mayfield diced up the Jets defense, going 68 yards and scoring a touchdown. Mayfield went 5-for-6 on the drive and threw a touchdown pass to Cade Otton. The Jets offense then got the ball at their own 32 and sputtered. **Braelon Allen** had a drop and the offense had three penalties. The drive stalled at the Tampa 43 and **Jason Sanders** missed a 61-yard field goal, coming up short.

CAUGHT MY EYE

Tight end **Jeremy Ruckert** made the catch of the day for a 19-yard gain during the two-minute drill. He leaped and caught a high pass from **Geno Smith**. Ruckert has had a strong camp.

INJURY REPORT

CB **Qwan’tez Stiggers** is in the concussion protocol after passing out during Tuesday’s practice. Stiggers was released from the hospital Tuesday night and is home recovering. DE **Kingsley Enagbare** (foot) did not practice. DE **Joseph Ossai** was activated from the PUP list Tuesday and **Aaron Glenn** said he hopes Ossai can practice next week.

— Brian Costello

Nabers may take big step Monday

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Attention Giants fans: Circle Aug. 17 on your calendar.

Monday is the first practice after the preseason opener against the Vikings.

And it's the earliest possible date for receiver Malik Nabers — who decreased his usual workload Wednesday as part of his scheduled rehab from last season's torn ACL — to join 7-on-7 and 11-on-11 periods of practice. Consider it a key step in his progress toward playing Week 1.

GIANTS NOTES

"We're looking towards soon ramping him up into some group periods and perhaps some team periods," head coach John Harbaugh said. "Maybe next week. We'll see. He's doing great. He's working hard. Spirits are high."

➤ Will QB **Jaxson Dart** play Saturday against the Vikings?

"That's a good direct question I'm going to have to dodge," Harbaugh quipped. "I'm going to have to bob and weave. I'll say, 'I'll let you know later.' "

Offensive coordinator **Matt Nagy** indicated that the "prep side" of preseason games is a key point in evaluating Dart's comfort level with a new offense.

"If there's one or two plays where he might not be seeing it well," Nagy said, "let's figure out why you're not."

➤ The Giants released their unofficial depth chart, and a few noteworthy items differed from what has been seen on the field: edge rushers **Abdul Carter** and **Kayvon Thibodeaux** and running backs **Cam Skattebo** and **Tyrone Tracy Jr.** were listed as co-starters.

Paulson Adebo is a starting cornerback ahead of **Deonte Banks**. **Darius Slayton** and Nabers are the only two starting wide receivers, while **Odell Beckham Jr.** is a third-teamer. **Evan Neal** and **Aaron Stinnie** are co-right guards on the second-team offense, while **Braxton Berrios** is the primary punt returner.

➤ The Giants did not list slot cornerback or slot receiver as a position.

TURN BECK THE CLOCK

OBJ impressing young teammates as he tends to unfinished business with Big Blue

Steve Serby

ODELL Beckham Jr. kneeled toward the end of practice, and behind him over his left shoulder stood MetLife Stadium.

His Forever Field of Dreams.

Where he will return in a New York Football Giants uniform Saturday against the Vikings, for the first time since late in the 2018 season in what he hopes and prays will be his against-all-odds comeback that will allow him to bask in the long-lost cheers of yesteryear that he missed so much.

"He will play, and I'm looking forward to seeing him play," John Harbaugh said.

Odell Beckham Jr. remains an iconic Giants figure, No. 13 when he made The Catch that changed everything for him, and it isn't only John Harbaugh and John Mara who are rooting for him. Many of his teammates are, too.

"Man, he looks great to me," Jameis Winston said. "And I think all the players say this, like when you have somebody who has meant so much to this organization in terms of That Catch, right? And I would say the excitement that he brought to the New York Football Giants during the years of Eli's last years, it just was incredible. And you see that show up at practice day in and day out.

"Me and him talk all the time, like he's just hungry for more, because he says he's got some unfinished business, and he's excited ..."

Winston stopped that thought. A big smile overwhelmed his face. His eyes looked like saucers.

"I can't wait to hear the fans yell when he runs out there, he catches a touchdown against the Minnesota Vikings — in MetLife Stadium," Winston said. "I think that is gonna be one of the loudest roars."

Winston recalled throwing a TD pass to TE Jimmy Graham, who had returned home as a Saint.

"And freakin' Who Dat Nation just ROAR!" Winston said. "And I just can't even imagine just the anticipation that our fans have for one of my favorite players growing up, Odell Beckham Jr., wearing that blue, man, and playing good football."

There is something noble about this particular 33-year-old gladiator trying desperately to reach up to catch his dream and leave the game on his own terms where it all started for him.

"It's pretty sick seeing one of your childhood idols, one of those dudes who kinda changed the game in a sense," Micah McFadden told The Post. "I think everybody on the team would love to see Odell here."

McFadden was 14 years old when Beckham went up and came down with The Catch against the Cowboys on "Sunday Night Football" as a rookie in 2014.

"I had to confess to him in the locker room, it was like 2016, 2017," Jason Pinnock said, "I had him as my screen saver in high school. He was like, 'Don't tell me that. That'll make me feel a little old.'"

Asked how Beckham looks to him, Pinnock said: "Doesn't look like he lost a step to me from what I was watching when I was in high school."

In truth, he is far from OBJ. He still has burst. He still has those hands. He is moving well. He is not The Go-To Guy anymore. He didn't play in 2025. Most importantly, he is still standing. His body has been holding up as he tries to build it back into football shape.

"As a player, I think he's still [the] same caliber player," Winston said, "but I've never been around him in a building. I only knew him as this football icon, the guy that made one-handed catches, and if you put the ball in the hand he was gonna make a play.

"But to see him being the teammate that he is, it's very funny seeing he and [rookie] Malachi [Fields], 'cause most of the young guys — they're Odell Beckham Jr. fans! Jalin Hyatt got 13 because he's an Odell Beckham Jr. fan. It's fun to see him putting the past in the past and focus on getting better every day."

Beckham wasn't involved a great deal at Wednesday's practice.

"I think he's ramped up, I think he's there," Harbaugh said. "You saw him on the sideline over there, he almost got his feet down on that really tough catch. He's looked good, he's in shape, he's taken every rep he's supposed to take in practice. I feel like he's getting stronger every day."

Beckham won't make the team on sentimentality, even if you sometimes get the feeling that everyone around the Giants looks at him and imagines the way he was.

"I probably want to see him play ... enough," Harbaugh said. "But you gotta play other guys, too. He could play the whole game, and he'd be fine. He's in shape to do it."

Game day for Odell Beckham Jr. A Giant again. At MetLife Stadium again. Time to catch a dream.

steve.serby@nypost.com

IT'S NOT A REACH: Back with the franchise where he made his name and with plenty to prove, Odell Beckham Jr. has a chance to be the player his Giants teammates grew up idolizing when he made The Catch in 2014 (left).

Charles Wenzelberg / NY Post; Getty Images

TRAINING DAY

DART THROWING DARTS

Jaxson Dart's best throw of the day was in 7-on-7 drills to RB **Devin Singletary**, who cooked LB **Arvell Reese** on a wheel route and trash-talked on his way to the end zone. Dart threw a touchdown to **Malachi Fields** that likely would have been negated by offensive pass interference.

TIPPING THE BALANCE

Dart had three passes batted down or tipped in the air, and **Jameis Winston** had two. Getting hands up is a point of emphasis for the defensive front seven, creating chances for takeaways.

CAUGHT MY EYE

In a 10-minute, back-and-forth period with the score tied 17-17 to end practice, the Giants had five possessions (three for the second-team offense and two for the starters). The results were four punts — **Jordan Stout** actually came onto the field to punt with only a snapper and a returner — and a walk-off 62-yard field goal by **Dominic Zvada**.

INJURY REPORT

Paulson Adebo (day to day) joined fellow CBs **Greg Newsome II** (knee) and **Dru Phillips** (knee) on the side. WRs **JuJu Smith-Schuster** (knee) and **Jalin Hyatt** (leg), C **John Michael Schmitz Jr.** (concussion) and C **Lucas Patrick** (knee) did not practice. WR **Malik Nabers** lessened his workload. — *Ryan Dunleavy*

DBs putting friendship aside in position battle

By RYAN DUNLEAVY

Jason Pinnock hasn't reacquired his old No. 27 jersey number from his former protégé Tyler Nubin, but he has begun to steal away some starting safety snaps.

A surprising — and somewhat awkward — position battle at safety is developing at Giants training camp, where Nubin, a 2024 second-round pick and two-year starter, is rotating on the first-team defense with Pinnock and Ar'Darius Washington.

"I think it's a credit to how well those guys are playing," John Harbaugh said after Wednesday's practice. "They have played like starters for quite a number of reps. So, let's take a look at them with that group. It's good to see everybody in different circumstances and situations. I think that's part of camp."

Pinnock mentored a rookie Nubin in the Giants starting safety tandem before he took a one-year free agent detour to the 49ers. The Giants paired Nubin with Jevón Holland in 2025 but brought back Pinnock this offseason, so he will slide back into the familiar uniform (albeit No. 25) Saturday against the Vikings in the preseason.

"Just truthfully, I'm an East Coast baby," said Pinnock, who grew up in Connecticut. "So, man, I'm home. I couldn't control [leaving the Giants] too, too much, you know? But everybody's got their own journey."

Pinnock and Nubin are close enough friends that they are invited to each other's baby showers — and Nubin to Pinnock's upcoming wedding — but that doesn't mean the battle for playing time is not intense. Quite the opposite, actually.

The Giants listed Nubin and Holland as starters and Pinnock and Washington as backups on their first unofficial depth chart. Holland's place is secure, while Nubin has gone from the beneficiary of early quiet praise from Harbaugh to rocky footing.

"That's my brother," Pinnock said, "[but] this is what comes with the sport. We're on each other. We're probably each other's biggest competitor, and we're on each other's ass. It just is what it is."

Washington is a wild card because he has history with Harbaugh from the Ravens and the versatility to play safety or challenge slot cornerback Dru Phillips — sidelined by a knee injury — as a starter.

Pinnock has history with the Giants and sort of history with new coordinator Dennard Wilson's scheme, which he likens to that of former Giants defensive coordinator Wink Martindale. Pinnock started 37 games for the Giants — 21 under Martindale — from 2022-24, totaling two interceptions and three forced fumbles.

"Opportunity arises, I just rose to the occasion," Pinnock said. "Every time you throw me in there, I'm [going to] ball. This is a new regime, so it doesn't matter that '22 to '24. It's about '26."

The hard-hitting Nubin dropped 8 pounds in the offseason as a way to get faster and address a habit that developed last season when he couldn't chase down ball carriers after taking one wrong step. But he has given up big plays in training camp, whether against Xavier Gipson's speed or letting JuJu Smith-Schuster pick a touchdown catch off the top of his helmet when he didn't turn his head around.

"I think you always got to have urgency in this league because you never know when your last snap is going to be," Nubin said. "It doesn't matter who you are or where you were drafted. So, my urgency's always at a top level."

Nubin left college with a reputation for ball hawking after setting Minnesota's record with 13 career interceptions. He has zero in 26 career NFL games, so he welcomes Wilson's scheme and the possibility of "a couple packages where I'm going to be moving around a little bit."

From the outside, the secondary is considered the weak link in a potentially dominant defense. Both starting cornerback jobs are up for grabs.

The secondary is going to push back against the narrative that no one has claimed starting jobs — at least until the results start.

"This is just full of starters," Pinnock said. "Like, it's going to be tough, you know? It's going to be however the cards are dealt. Best man win type of thing."

rdunleavy@nypost.com

DED’ IN THE ATL

Núñez scuffles again as Mets falter late to drop series vs. Braves

NOT QUITE THERE: Jared Young gets tagged out at second base after trying to stretch a single into a double in the fifth inning Wednesday night. Getty Images

By MIKE PUMA

ATLANTA — Dedniel Núñez was a key piece to the Mets bullpen for two seasons, but his recent return to the team after Tommy John surgery rehab hasn’t proceeded as smoothly.

Wednesday night, he had an ugly seventh inning that helped send the Mets to a series defeat with a 6-3 loss to the Braves at Truist Park.

BRAVES	**6**	**Boxscore Page 40**
METS	**3**	

Núñez entered with the Mets behind 3-2 and allowed three runs — including two home runs — while retiring only one batter. It followed an appearance five days earlier in which he allowed two earned runs in one inning against the Pirates.

Such is the volatility of the Mets bullpen following the trade deadline deals that sent Luke Weaver, Huascar Brazobán, A.J. Minter and Brooks Raley elsewhere. In addition, Devin Williams is on the injured list with a right shoulder strain.

“There has been good and bad from this whole process,” Núñez, who underwent ligament replacement surgery (for the second time) in July of last year, said through an interpreter. “I think when you have been out as long as I was it kind of takes a little longer to find your rhythm, to kind of find that execution. I haven’t been executing my fastballs as well as I wanted to.”

Núñez allowed consecutive homers to Mike Yastrzemski and Austin Riley in the seventh before Ronald Acuña Jr. hit a ball off the fence for a double that became the third Braves run in the inning.

“Some pitches in the heart of the plate have gotten hit pretty hard,” interim manager Andy Green said. “[Núñez] is going to be fine. The opportunity to get out there and continue to pitch, he’s going to get that. When we look forward to next year, he’s going to be a big part of what we do. He has good stuff. He has kind of paid for middle-middle mistakes right now. He will keep grinding and get it right.”

UP NEXT

vs. Nationals

FRIDAY: 7:10 p.m., PIX11
SATURDAY: 4:10 p.m., SNY
SUNDAY: 1:40 p.m., SNY
WHSQ (880 AM)

Big showings in Cleveland and Pittsburgh and an impressive opener at Truist Park this week offered the Mets hope that surging bats would lead to a third straight series victory. No such luck.

The Mets were shut out Monday — and before that, Saturday in Pittsburgh. In their six victories on the trip, they averaged 8.3 runs. On this night, they did not place a runner in scoring position until the ninth inning. Three solo homers accounted for their runs.

Zac Thornton was respectable, allowing three earned runs on seven hits and one walk over six innings. The rookie lefty has pitched to a 2.78 ERA and completed at least six innings in five of his last seven starts.

“It was a gritty performance for him,” Green said. “That was not his best stuff. It wasn’t his best strikes and he continued to grind.”

Thornton allowed a homer to Lane Thomas with two outs in the second inning for the game’s first run. Thomas crushed a high cutter over the left field fence — the third homer allowed by Thornton over his last four starts.

The Mets deficit increased to 2-0 in the third. Thornton walked Acuña Jr. leading off the inning, and Drake Baldwin singled before Matt Olson’s double-play grounder brought in the run.

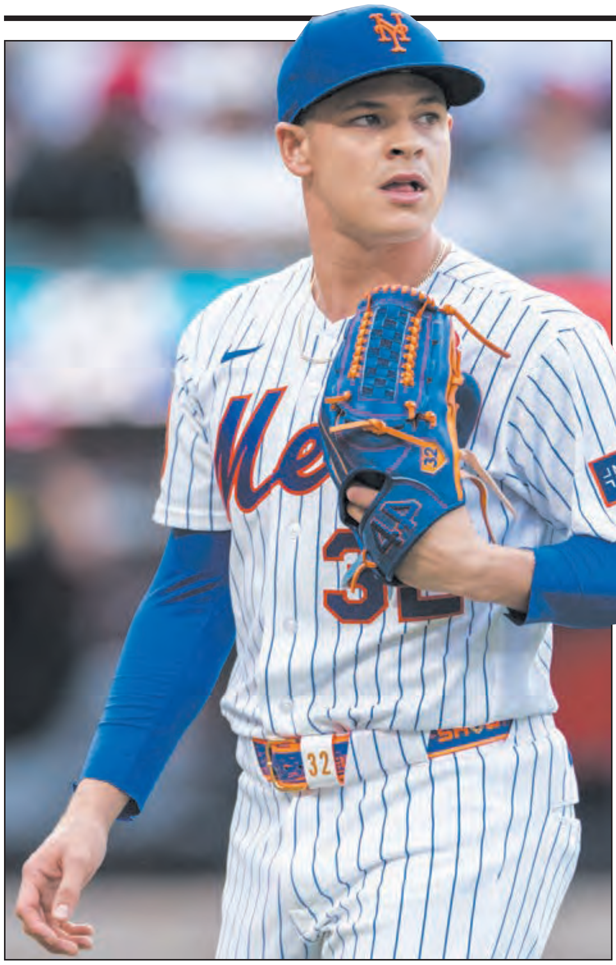
Acuña’s RBI single in the fifth gave the Braves a 3-0 lead, but the inning could have been worse for Thornton after he allowed a leadoff single to Austin Riley and a single to Sean Murphy. Acuña was thrown out trying to reach second following Francisco Lindor’s cutoff on the hit.

Luis Torrens’ third homer on the road trip, a solo blast in the sixth, got the Mets to within 3-1. Luis Robert Jr. homered in the seventh for the second Mets run, and Bo Bichette went deep in the ninth.

Núñez entered for the bottom of the seventh and surrendered consecutive homers to Yastrzemski and Riley that placed the Mets in a 5-2 hole. Núñez was charged with a third run in the inning after Baldwin stroked an RBI single against Jefry Yan.

“It wasn’t that I was all over the place where I wasn’t necessarily executing my pitches,” Núñez said. “I left some pitches in the zone. I was trying to attack and they did damage.”

Myers' issues in minors a big concern for Amazin's



NIGHT AND DAY: Tobias Myers started the season as a valued piece for the Mets but has posted an 8.24 ERA in his past eight appearances at Triple-A Syracuse. Corey Sipkin

By MIKE PUMA

ATLANTA — Tobias Myers went from a valued arm for the Mets early this season to far removed from the major league mix as the season nears the home stretch.

The right-hander, who was demoted in June, has pitched to an 8.24 ERA over his past eight appearances for Triple-A Syracuse, most recently utilized as a starter.

Myers began the season as a swingman for the Mets after arriving with Freddy Peralta in a trade with the Brewers last winter.

"He has the kind of stuff and has demonstrated the kind of stuff that gets people out in the big leagues," interim manager Andy Green said before the Mets lost 6-3 to the Braves on Wednesday. "It hasn't been showing in Triple-A right now. He has the capacity to change that. He's got great work ethic. He's just got to demonstrate it. If he does, I fully expect to see him."

Myers' dip in velocity has been the most significant issue, according to Green.

"The most recent outing he was sitting around 90 [mph]," Green said. "He's been successful in the big leagues, there was an outing last year he went 3 ⅓ [innings], he was up to 98 and was sitting at 96. He has bullied hitters with his fastball and then the split plays off it. That is not happening right now. That belongs to him, and our pitching group is there to help him. But he's got the opportunity to change that and he's somebody we do believe in and want back here."

METS NOTES

➤ **Cristian Pache** spent most of the season at Syracuse wondering if he would get an opportunity with the Mets. The veteran is now receiving that opportunity as the team's fifth outfielder following the trade that sent **Tyrone Taylor** to the Cubs.

"I will keep working to play," Pache said. "I want to do more for the team."

Pache has primarily served as a late-inning defensive replacement in games **Brett Baty** has started in the outfield.

Pache did not make an appearance in Wednesday's loss.

"The elite defense, the baserunning, kind of fits that role for us if we need that," Green said. "Those are the skill sets we value with him and there's not a lot of starts [for him] with the other guys in the outfield."

➤ **Francisco Alvarez**'s .838 OPS for August entering play wasn't unnoticed by Green.

"I think [his at-bats] have just been really competitive, every one of them, for the most part," Green said. "The power is there. The hits are there. He's starting to drive in runs as well. Alvy's ceiling is still astronomically high. He has the capacity to do so much in this game and to see a lot of it come out and see his OPS continue to march northward, it's fun to see."

➤ The Mets are 18-21 against NL East opponents this season after Wednesday night's defeat. They will continue their division slate with three games against the Nationals beginning Friday at Citi Field.

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New approach paying off for Jones since making his return from minors

HITTING HIS STRIDE

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Spencer Jones described himself as a "chill bird."

In his first stint in The Bronx, though, he acted differently than that description.

"First time around, you try so hard to do a lot of things," the outfielder said Wednesday. "For me, I'm a chill bird, I just need to relax and allow myself to do as I do, and not force anything."

When he returned July 26, Jones was determined to be himself. The results have followed.

The latest example came in the Yankees' come-from-behind 10-5 win over the Mariners at the Stadium. Jones had a pair of doubles and three RBIs as the Yankees won for the fourth time in five games.

Jones has been particularly effective with runners in scoring position, posting a .981 OPS in such situations spanning 46 plate appearances. He has a simple approach with men on base.

"I think something that I learned when I was young, that I've always liked, was that when there's runners on base there's really no pressure on you at the plate. It's more so on the pitcher on the mound," Jones said. "That's kind of the way I've always framed it and just recognize that the guys are going to try to get you out, they're going to put stuff over the plate. As long as you do your job and don't go chasing, you'll get a pitch to hit."

Jones' recent emergence — he had a big day in Saturday's win over the Braves and ace Chris Sale, driving in two runs — has been significant as the injury-ravaged Yankees search for offense. He had one of the biggest hits Wednesday, a two-run double that cut a three-run deficit to one in the third inning. Two innings later, he pulled the Yankees even with another double.

"I feel like he has had some adjustability. You start with obviously his size and strength and speed, and real natural power. He touches it on the barrel, it's getting hit hard," manager Aaron Boone said. "But I feel like he's done a good job of having professional at-bats every day. He understands some of his strengths and weaknesses. He has been pretty good at having a plan going up there, and knowing what that pitcher's strengths and weaknesses are and then making a plan for that. He has shown some adaptability at this level, which has been good."

zbraziller@nypost.com

FIT TO BE TIED: Spencer Jones is pumped up after hitting an RBI double to tie the game during the fifth inning against the Mariners on Wednesday night in The Bronx. Robert Sabo

Warren's emotions get better of him

By MARK. W SANCHEZ
and ANDREW CRANE

After a rough outing, Will Warren blamed his emotions more than his pitches.

The Yankees starting pitcher was victimized by three home runs, each coming off a different pitch, but his outing might be most remembered for a ball that found grass rather than seats.

In the second inning, Seattle's Brendan Donovan lofted a high fly into shallow center. Trent Grisham's first instinct was to jog in — he later acknowledged he got a bad read on the ball — before realizing the fly ball should be his.

The epiphany came too late, and George Lombard Jr.'s helpless lunge with his back to the plate was unsuccessful. The ball dropped for a gift double, and TV cameras caught Warren yelling in frustration.

"You got to be able to control your emotions," Warren said after the 10-5 win over the Mariners in The Bronx. "I don't think I did a very good job of that tonight, and that's probably why I got ran out of there in the fifth."

YANKEES NOTES

➤ At this point, Boone doesn't have any plans to test **Luis García Jr.**'s defensive flexibility in a game. But Boone left the door open for that to happen at some point — whether it's later in 2026 or beyond.

García, whom the Yankees acquired ahead of the trade deadline, played second base — and struggled doing so — with the Nationals before switching to first base full-time this year. But with a logjam at first base with **Ben Rice**, and second baseman **Jazz Chisholm Jr.** stumbling and a free agent in the offseason, García taking grounders at other positions, as he did before Tuesday's game, could become a more common scene.

"Yeah, we'll see," Boone said when asked about García playing another position. "Kinda had him making sure he works out there all the time, and you watch him and I feel like he's got real natural actions to me. ... Just watching him work and move and things like that, I feel like he could."

➤ **Kervin Castro**, who was placed on the 15-day injured list Tuesday with right elbow neuritis, could return this season, Boone said, although he might cut it close.

The righty, who had been quietly effective in the bullpen (one run in 6 innings), went down in late May with an injury that Boone said was similar and wound up sidelined for five weeks.

➤ **Clarke Schmidt**, who felt forearm cramping during a live batting practice Aug. 4, still has not returned to a mound.

Schmidt, whom the Yankees have said has seen a doctor who believed the issue was just cramps rather than something more serious, has been throwing but on flat ground.

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SCORE VALUES

Lineup's 10-run outburst propels Yanks in rout of M's

By MARK W. SANCHEZ

For weeks (or arguably months) without Aaron Judge and to a lesser extent Cody Bellinger and Giancarlo Stanton, the Yankees lineup has looked asleep.

On Wednesday, it was as if the bats had set repeated alarms, jolting awake in increments before several late-game outbursts that sure made the club look alive.

The Yankees dug holes — surprising for a rolling pitching staff — and escaped them — surprising for a stalling offense. They rattled off the final seven runs of a 10-5 victory to clinch a series over the Mariners in front of 41,714, three of whom rushed the field in the fifth inning only to be taken down (in one case, particularly violently) by Yankee Stadium security.

YANKEES	**10**	**Boxscore Page 40**
MARINERS	**5**	

Against a strong Mariners staff and Bryce Miller, the Yankees exploded for 13 hits, including six doubles and a pair of home runs from Trent Grisham — who finished 3-for-5 with 10 total bases, four RBIs and a defensive lapse that was forgotten about — that helped seal it.

All after they were trailing, 3-0, five batters into the game, and Will Warren (four innings, five runs) applied plenty of pressure to the team's offense.

"To break out like that — we haven't done that in a while — against a team that's good at limiting runs, good to see everyone contribute, especially when you fall behind like that in the first inning," said manager Aaron Boone, whose team scored more than five runs in a game for just a fifth time in its past 48 games and scored double-digit runs for the first time since July 9. "We just kept kind of crawling our way back into it."

The Yankees (68-52) won a fourth of five games, remained six games back of the Rays in the AL East and moved four games clear of the Red Sox, who have dropped five straight, for the top wild card.

It was a 3-0 hole. After a second-inning double from Ryan McMahon, it was 3-1.

Then it was a 4-1 hole. After a third-inning, two-run double off the left field wall from Spencer Jones, it was 4-3.

Then it was a 5-3 hole entering the bottom of the fifth, which is when the bullpen entered and shut down the Mariners (five technically shutout innings from a shaky Fernando Cruz and a solid Tim Hill, Paul Blackburn, Brent Headrick and Yerry De Los Santos) and the offense seized control.

"They scored runs," Jones said after reaching base three times and knocking in three runs with a pair of doubles. "We came right back."

In the fifth, Grisham — briefly a villain in The Bronx after he allowed a would-be out to drop in front of him in the second inning — demolished a first-pitch, two-out home run to bring the Yankees within one run. Two pitches later, Ben Rice doubled into the right field corner, and before he could catch his breath, he hustled home on a first-pitch double from Jones that tied the game.

The Yankees used more patience in a three-run seventh, when nine stepped to the plate, Grisham added his RBI double, Rice followed with an RBI single and Jazz Chisholm Jr. — mightily struggling and watching the Mariners intentionally walk Heliot Ramos ahead of him to get a bases-loaded matchup with lefty Gabe Speier — worked a strong walk to bring home another run.

"Some good left-on-left at-bats," Boone said before adding, "Eventually the dam broke."

The game became a rout in the eighth, when Grisham clubbed his second homer, this to right-center, for his second multi-homer game of the year.

Grisham is among the many who did not step up during this prolonged chill without the team's best bats. Perhaps that trend is ending.

"I feel good," said a typically reserved Grisham, who is 8-for-17 with three homers and four doubles in his past four games.

The whole team can feel good after what has become a rarity: a victory going away. The Yankees' previous six games and previous seven wins had been decided by three runs or fewer.

"We never felt like we were out of it tonight," Rice said.

msanchez@nypost.com

RUNS AWAY! George Lombard Jr. scores on Trent Grisham's double in the seventh inning to give the Yankees the lead for good in their 10-5 win over the Mariners.

Robert Sabo

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INJURY REPORT

- **Kervin Castro** (elbow neuritis) could return this season, Aaron Boone said, though there are no guarantees regarding an injury that has struck the righty for a second time this year.
- **Giancarlo Stanton** (calf strain) ran the bases for a second straight day and appears to be close to a rehab assignment, assuming the Yankees would send him on one.

ON DECK

vs. Mariners

Thursday, 1:35 p.m., YES, WFAN (660 AM, 101.9 FM)

LHP Max Fried

2026 stats: 4-3, 2.88 ERA

Career vs. SEA: 1-1, 1.13 ERA

Last start: Fri., vs. ATL; 6.1 IP, 0 ER, 7 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

23%	21%	19%
Cutter	Sinker	4-Seamer

RHP Logan Gilbert

2026 stats: 8-7, 3.42 ERA

Career vs. NYY: 2-4, 6.80 ERA

Last start: Fri., vs. TB; 6.2 IP, 2 ER, 6 SO

PITCH BREAKDOWN

40%	25%	14%
4-Seamer	Slider	Splitter

UP NEXT

FRIDAY: at Blue Jays, 7:15 p.m., Apple TV, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

SATURDAY: at Blue Jays, 3:07 p.m., YES, WFAN
TBD vs. TBD

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JUMP FOR JOY: Trent Grisham is greeted by Ben Rice (left) after hitting his second home run of the game in the eighth inning of the Yankees' 10-5 win over the Mariners. The outfielder continued the celebration with his teammates in the dugout.

Imagn Images; Robert Sabo

Grisham's bat stays hot with two-homer effort

By ANDREW CRANE

At first, Wednesday emerged as an instance of Trent Grisham struggling in center field — despite the public support of Aaron Boone one day prior, despite the Yankees having another option in Spencer Jones who could play there and a dip at the plate not helping his case.

But by the end of the night, when the Yankees' 10-5 win concluded, Grisham's best offensive game in months made that — and his rough season at the plate at large with a $22 million contract — an afterthought.

Grisham crushed two homers, collected three hits and drove in four runs, delivering his second multihomer game of the season and ninth of his career. He has collected multiple hits in three consecutive games, which tied his career best. And Grisham has gone 8-for-14 over his last four games, capturing one of his best stretches of the season as he attempts to fix a brutal start.

"I don't think he gets swung emotionally very much by highs and lows," Boone said. "The reality is he's putting together a lot of good at-bats right now for us, and we know that's what he's capable of — of setting the tone for us."

Grisham admitted that he wanted a better read on the ball off Brendan Donovan's bat at the start of the second inning, which had an exit velocity of 70 mph and an expected batting average of .170, according to Baseball Savant. The shallow fly ball into center field started with Grisham slowly jogging in. Shortstop George Lombard Jr. ended up wildly attempting to dive for it, tumbling to the ground as Donovan sprinted into second with a double.

"It felt like the ball was up there long enough that a play could've been made if everyone got the right jump on it," said Boone, who added that he still needed to watch the replay to see Grisham's read.

But the Yankees escaped the inning unscathed, and with two outs in the fifth inning, Grisham crushed a first-pitch sinker 364 feet to right field. He drove in Lombard with a double in the seventh before adding his 15th homer of the season in the eighth, giving him three in the last four games.

"Earlier in my career, I've gotten really high and really low, really emotional," Grisham said. "What I've seen in the better players across the league usually just kinda stay even-keeled. ... So I just try to emulate that as much as I can."

By the time the Yankees' game ended Aug. 2, Grisham's average had dipped to .211, the lowest it'd been since early June. His career season in 2025 kept fading. But even with his power down one season after a career-best 34 homers, Grisham, at least for this 10-day stretch has started to ease some of those concerns.

"Hitting the ball in the seats and the gap," Boone said, "I'll sign up for that."

acrane@nypost.com

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Everett Collection

STREAM IT OR SKIP IT

"Muzzle: City of Wolves" (Hulu) is either outsider art or incompetent junk. Guess which way we're leaning here. **OUR CALL: SKIP IT**

WHAT TO WATCH

One of the hands-down funniest movies of 2026 is Apple TV's offbeat charmer **"The Dink."** A throwback to classic comedies of the early-aughts, the film centers on a washed-up tennis pro (**Jake Johnson**, left) who's forced to play pickleball to help save his father's (Ed Harris) struggling country club. "The Dink" is also overflowing with smart jokes and sensational comedic performances — we see you, Aaron Chen — from the talented ensemble.

For more on your favorite TV and films, visit decider.com

DECIDER

WHAT TO WATCH. WHEREVER YOU WATCH

A 'BRILLIANT' CHANGE OF PACE

'Slow Horses' star Christopher Chung transforms into 'My Brilliant Career' heartthrob Harry

By MEGHAN O'KEEFE

Netflix's new period drama **"My Brilliant Career"** is determined to get you swooning. Based on Miles Franklin's landmark 1901 semi-autobiographical novel of the same name (which, yes, inspired the classic Judy Davis/Sam Neill film), "My Brilliant Career" follows the spirited Sybylla Melvyn (Philippa Northeast). Sybylla has grand ambitions of being a great writer, but her family has other plans. Sybylla is sent to live with her wealthy grandmother Mrs. Bossier (Anna Chancellor) and widowed Aunt Helen (Genevieve O'Reilly) at Cattagat, so the sophisticated women can "truss her up like a turkey" to attract a wealthy husband.

****Spoilers for "My Brilliant Career," now streaming on Netflix****

Almost as soon as Sybylla arrives at Cattagat, she attracts the attention of two young men: Harry Beecham (Christopher Chung) and Frank Hawden (Jake Dunn). Mrs. Bossier thinks that Frank, an Englishman working on her ranch for management experience, would be an easy, obvious match for Sybylla. And indeed, the two eventually become friends. However, when Sybylla is invited by Harry's Aunt Augusta (Kate Mulvany) to spend time at the Beechams' grand estate, Five Bob, she develops feelings for the earnest, yet dashing Harry.

"My Brilliant Career" Episode 2 "HE" specifically plays up the attraction growing between Sybylla and Harry, showing them bonding over books and chores, music, and even sensually cracking a bullwhip. Naturally, Augusta, nicknamed Gus, soon points out an impediment to Syb and Harry's burgeoning romance, but it's impossible not to root for this couple throughout the run of "My Brilliant Career." That's all thanks to the incendiary chemistry between series leads Philippa "Pip" Northeast and Christopher Chung.

Most American audiences will best know Chung as the obnoxious Roddy Ho on Apple TV's **"Slow Horses."** Here, instead of playing a repellent hacker, Chung is the textbook definition of a tall, dark, and handsome heartthrob.

Netflix

Christopher Chung (above) stars on "My Brilliant Career" with Philippa Northeast (left). The series is streaming now on Netflix.

DECIDER: First of all, I just fell madly in love with this series. It's so good. You're so charming in it. Are you ready for the world to just fall in love with you as this iconic Australian heartthrob?

CHRISTOPHER CHUNG: No, don't say that! Yeah, I guess I'm quietly optimistic that that's the way that it will go. I think the thing that I'm most excited about for me, personally, is being able to show people a different side of my acting performance because I think people are so used to seeing me as being an obnoxious prick in "Slow Horses." So it's nice to be a bit more charming.

For sure. I'm curious, having watched the series, is there a moment that you can pinpoint where Harry either falls for Sybylla or he begins to notice her in a different way? Is it the poem in Episode 1 or something else?

Do you know what? Having watched it back, I think the moment where he first really takes her in is when he drops his apples and he sees her in the tree. There's a really lovely moment of energy and connection there when he's untangling her hair. He's like, "Oh, there's something about this girl and I don't know what it is." So for me performing it, that was really when I thought for Harry, oh, he's really taking her in. Because he does see her initially when he passes her in the carriage but he doesn't consider her at all because he's business first. So I think that is a really profound moment. Then obviously the way that Sybylla is able to turn Harry's emotions very quickly by calming him down when she's jumped into the pond and then he storms off. She puts her hand on his chest very much like she's putting it on a horse to go, *"Whoa."* I think that moment as well is very important and special to the two of them.

I want to ask about the reveal that your character is engaged to Blanche. He never brings this up to Sybylla and she feels very deeply betrayed by it. Do you think he was right to keep it a secret? Do you think he was really lying to her? How do you see the whole Blanche dynamic?

Well, I think he's trying to navigate... There's a really great line that he has about what is more important: Is it love or honor? And it's him trying to navigate that question continuously throughout the series. You know, it's the honorable thing to continue to keep this promise to Blanche, but also knowing that it's beneficial to him and his family and his state in the world and his finances, all of those things, to be engaged to her. But then also knowing that he has this growing love for Sybylla each and every consecutive episode. I think for him, I always was under the assumption that he knew that relationship and that arrangement was always going to dissolve no matter how much Gus wanted that for him and how much it would help his financial status and his predicament. So I think he would be more willing to throw caution to the wind and be more like Sybylla in that way where he's not governed by societal expectation as opposed to just going along with what's in front of him.

HGTV

TRENDING NOW

Ready to be spooked? **"Scariest House in America"** is returning for Season 3. Hosted by **Retta** (left), the upcoming installment premieres on HGTV on Friday, Sept. 18 at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

WHAT'S NEW

ON DISNEY CHANNEL
"**Camp Rock 3**," the return of the hit musical movie franchise.

ON NETFLIX
"**Tires**," Season 3 of the comedy series (left).

Best Bets

What's on Tonight

ADVENTURE

The Lion King: 6 p.m. on DIS. Donald Glover, James Earl Jones. A young lion flees his kingdom only to learn the true meaning of responsibility and bravery.

COMEDY

Ace Ventura: Pet Detective: 10 p.m. on VH1. Jim Carrey, Sean Young. A goofy detective goes in search of the missing mascot of the Miami Dolphins.

ACTION

Die Hard with a Vengeance: 11:30 p.m. on FX. Bruce Willis, Jeremy Irons. John McClane is forced out of suspension to play a game of "Simon Says".

Thursday August 13, 2026

SP = Spectrum, C = Cablevision, F = FiOS   Movies 🟥 Sports 🟩 New 🟨

Evening	SP	C	F	6:30pm	7:00pm	7:30pm	8:00pm	8:30pm	9:00pm	9:30pm	10:00pm	10:30pm	11:00pm	11:30pm
2 WCBS	2	2	2	CBS Evening News	Inside Edition	Entertainment Tonight	Big Brother		First Marriage (R)	Ghosts: St. Hetty's Day	(10:01) Elsbeth: And Then There Were Nuns (R)		CBS News 11pm	(11:35) Comics (R)
4 WNBC	4	4	4	NBC Nightly News	News 4 New York at 7	Access Hollywood	The Americas: The Caribbean Fun Fact Edition		The Americas: The Making of the Americas (R)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit: Deep Under (R)		News 4 New York at 11	(11:35) Tonight Show
5 WNYW	5	5	5	(6:00) 6 O'Clock News	Extra	TMZ	The 1% Club: Ladies Night (R)		Best Medicine: Port Wenn-ings and a Funeral (R)		The 10 O'Clock News		Good Night New York	Feud Favorites (R)
7 WABC	7	7	7	ABC World News	Jeopardy!: Tournament	Wheel of Fortune (R)	Celebrity Family Feud: Nicole Byer vs Margaret		The 2026 Patriot Games Taped.		Press Your Luck: Frickin' Brisbane		News	(11:35) Kimmel Live
9 WWOR	9	9	9	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	The News on My 9		Dateline: Evil Was Waiting		Family Feud (R)	Family Feud (R)	Dateline: Dreams & Nightmares	
11 WPIX	11	11	11	(6:00) PIX11 News at 6	Seinfeld: The Mango	The Big Bang Theory	Trivial Pursuit: Major League (R)		Scrabble: The Machine (R)		PIX11 News at Ten		New York Nightcap	Seinfeld: The Virgin
13 WNET	13	13	13	BBC World News	The PBS News Hour		Rock Classics			My Music Presents: Carpenters: Close to You			Amanpour and Company	
21 WLIW	21	21	21	(6:00) News	Plovers of Moonlight Bay		8 Days: To the Moon and Back			Memory Makeover with Daniel Amen			BBC News	The Day
25 WNYE	25	22	25	Laura	Great Conversations		Food.	Potluck	Roots	Feet	Hospitality and Politics		My World	LBJ Library
31 WPXN	31	3	531	(6:00) FBI	FBI: Breakdown		FBI: Protégé		FBI: Money for Nothing		FBI: The Lies We Tell		FBI: Family First	
41 WXTV	41	6	41	N Univisi	La rosa de Guadalupe		Tan Cerca de Ti, Nace el		Guardián de mi Vida		Corazon de Oro		Noticias	N Univisio
47 WNJU	47	16	12	Noticias	Top Chef VIP				El Señor de los Cielos		Lejos de Ti		Noticiero	Noticias
55 WLNY	55	10	10	Perfect (R)	Last Man	Last Man	News 8pm		48 Hours: Searching for		Judge Judy	Judge Judy	Neighbor.	Neighbor.
A&E	46	46	181	First 48 (R)	The First 48: No Exit (R)		The First 48		Accused: Guilty or		(10:01) Accused: Guilty or		(11:04) Accused: Guilty or	
AMC	54	43	231	(5:15) John Wick: Chapter 4 (2023, Action) Keanu Reeves. R ★★★½					TNA iMPACT!				John Wick: Chapter 3 R	
BBCAM	71	101	189	(6:45) Galaxy Quest (1999, Science Fiction) Tim Allen. PG ★★★					Starship Troopers (1997, Science Fiction) Casper Van Dien. R ★★★					
BET	37	54	270	(6:40) Family Feud		Celebrity Family Feud: NFLPA All-Stars			The Secret Life of Bees (2008, Drama) Queen Latifah. PG-13 ★★★					
BRAVO	18	44	185	Housewives	Real Housewives (R)		Real Housewives of Orange County			Ultimate Girls Trip (R)		Real Housewives (R)		Housewives
CNBC	15	24	102	Money	Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank		Shark Tank	
CNN	78	25	100	(6:00) Lead	Erin Burnett OutFront		Anderson Cooper 360°		The Source with Kaitlan		CNN NewsNight		Laura Coates Live	
COMEDY	45	50	190	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park: The Trilogy (2008) ★★★½			South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park	South Park
DISC	66	27	120	Fortunes	Filthy Fortunes (R)		Filthy Fortunes (R)		Filthy Fortunes (R)		Filthy Fortunes (R)		Filthy Fortunes (R)	
DISNEY	49	31	250	(6:00) The Lion King (2019, Adventure)			Camp Rock 3 (2026)			(9:45) Camp Rock 3 (2026, Music)				Phineas
E!	24	51	196	Grown Ups 2 (2013, Comedy) Adam Sandler. PG-13 ★★					(9:02) Grown Ups (2010, Comedy) Adam Sandler. ★★½				Grown Ups 2 (2013) ★★	
ESPN	28	36	70	Baseball	Little League Baseball: Regionals Live.				Little League Baseball: Regionals Live.				SportsCenter	
ESPN2	29	35	74	Sports	NBA Today		College	College	World Series of		World Series of		30 for 30	
FBN	43	106	117	Bottom	Kudlow (R)		Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
FNC	44	26	118	Spc. Rpt.	The Ingraham Angle		Jesse Watters Primetime		Hannity		Gutfeld!		Fox News @ Night	
FOOD	50	97	164	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Beat Bobby	Restaurant Impossible		Ramsay's Secret Service		Ramsay's Secret Service		Kitchen Nightmares	
FREE	38	49	199	The Proposal (2009) ★★★		The Devil Wears Prada (2006, Comedy) Meryl Streep. PG-13 ★★★					Project Runway		The 700 Club (R)	
FS1	400	99	83	Harvick's	Indycar NICS Racing Replay.				ALL IN: INDYCAR		ALL IN	Leagues Cup Soccer Live.		
FX	10	40	53	(5:00) Avengers: Endgame (2019, Action) Robert Downey Jr. ★★★★					Uncharted (2022, Action) Tom Holland. PG-13 ★★★					Die Hard R
HALL		191	240	The Irresistible Blueberry Farm (2016)			Valentine Ever After (2016) Autumn Reeser. NR ★★½				Golden	Golden	Golden	Golden
HGTV	64	98	165	Love It	Ugliest House in America		Ugliest House in America		Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters	Hunters
HIST	40	47	128	Secrets (R)	Secrets Declassified (R)		Secrets Declassified (R)		Secrets Declassified		(10:03) Engineering Fr.		(11:05) Secrets Declas.	
ID	23	171	123	Neighbor	Fear Thy Neighbor		Married to Evil		A Killer Among Friends		Game Day Murders		Murder Under the Friday	
LIFE	62	45	140	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Lost at Sea		NCIS: The Namesake		NCIS: Shell Shock (Pt.1)		NCIS: Shell Shock 2		(11:03) NCIS: Gone	
MeTV	33	33	3	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Andy	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Golden	Golden	Burnett	P. Mason
MSG	27	87	78	MSG PM	Knicks Classics				MSG Vault				Knicks Classics	
MSG Plus	48	88	80	(5:00) FanDuel Racing				Golf Life	NHL Hockey: Patrick Division Finals, Game 5 Replay.				NHL Hockey Replay.	
MSNOW	14	23	103	Ari Melber	The Weeknight		All in with Chris Hayes		The Briefing Jen Psaki		Lawrence O'Donnell		The 11th Hour with Ali	
MTV	20	53	210	Ridiculous	Jersey Shore: Family (R)		Jersey Shore: Family		(9:04) Jersey Shore (R)		The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper. ★★★½			
NATGEO	65	162	121	MMedicine	Medicine: Etruscan Gold		Medicine (R)		Mysterious Islands		Mysterious Islands		Medicine (R)	
NICK	6	121	252	Goblet	Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (2007, Fantasy) Daniel Radcliffe. ★★★						Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang
OWN	173	180	145	Inside Fix	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Home Videos		Waiting to Exhale (1995, Drama) Whitney Houston. R ★★½					
PARMT	36	56	54	(6:00) Vacation (2015, Comedy) Ed Helms. R ★★½				(8:28) Couples Retreat (2009, Comedy) Vince Vaughn. PG-13 ★★					(11:15) Vacation (2015) R	
SNY	26	60	77	Minor League Baseball: Jersey Shore BlueClaws at Brooklyn Cyclones. Live.						Mets Specials		Yearbook	Sports	Sports
SYFY	17	48	180	Underworld (2003, Horror) Kate Beckinsale. R ★★★					Wrath of the Titans (2012, Action) Sam Worthington.				Ungentlemanly (2024)	
TBS	8	39	52	Bang	Bang	Bang: Pilot	Bang	Bang	Bang	Bang	Impractical	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)	Jokers (R)
TCM	82	41	230	(6:00) Back Street (1961, Drama) NR ★★½			Valley of the Dolls (1967, Drama) Barbara Parkins. ★				I'll Cry Tomorrow (1955, Drama) Susan Hayward. ★★★½			
TLC	52	28	139	90 Day (R)	90 Day: Last (R)		90 Day: The Last Resort		Little Singles		Jay & Pamela		Baylen Out Loud (R)	
TNT	3	37	51	(6:45) The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002, Fantasy) Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen. PG-13 ★★★★								The Lord of the Rings (2003) ★★★★		
TVLAND	85	34	241	Andy	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	(9:20) Loves Raymond		Loves Ray.	Loves Ray.	Queens	Queens
USA	16	38	50	(6:00) SVU	Law & Order: SVU		Armageddon (1998, Science Fiction) Bruce Willis. PG-13 ★★★						Armageddon (1998) ★★★	
VH1	19	52	217	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Wife/Kids	Down to Earth (2001, Comedy) Chris Rock. PG-13 ★★				Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994) Jim Carrey. ★★★			
WE	59	42	149	(6:00) NCIS	NCIS: Bounce		NCIS: South Southwest		NCIS: Knockout		NCIS: Hide and Seek		NCIS: Dead Reckoning	
YES	53	89	76	Minor League Baseball Live.					MLB Baseball: Seattle Mariners at New York Yankees. Replay.					
HBO	511	301	400	Life Larry	(6:55) Sicario (2015, Crime) Emily Blunt. R ★★★½				Monsters of God		Monsters of God (R)		(10:57) Of the Dragon (R)	
MAX	531	371	420	(5:16) The Flash (2023)		(7:41) Batman (1989, Action) Jack Nicholson, Michael Keaton. PG-13 ★★★								
MGM Plus	595		395	Transformers: The Last Knight (2017)			Men in Black (1997) Will Smith. ★★★½			Masters of the Universe (1987) Dolph Lundgren. ★★				Worlds ★★½
PARSHO	551	321	365	(5:45) Terminator: Dark Fate (2019) ★★★			Brave the Dark (2025, Drama) Jared Harris. PG-13				The Time Traveler's Wife (2009) Rachel McAdams.			

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026

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HITS ALIVE!

Sleepy Yankees bats finally awaken with 10-run barrage in rout of Mariners

Jason Szenes

With a number of stars injured, the Yankees lineup has been a myth of late. Wednesday night, they reminded the Mariners, and everyone else, that they can still score runs. Trent Grisham smashed a pair of homers in a 10-5 thrashing, the Bombers' first time scoring double digits since July 9. **P. 57-54**

GRABBING THE SPOTLIGHT

WILSON LOOKS LIKE OLD SELF AFTER INJURY

COSTELLO P. 48-49

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